



## Lions to eat people

Round and warm and brown as a coffee bean, Paulo Freire, Brazilian educationist and revolutionary, came to York University last weekend, an exile on the green English campus, by the willow trees on the lake. He was exiled from Brazil in 1964 and from Chile in 1969 because of the spectacular success of work based on his philosophy among illiterate South American peasants.

His adult literacy programme in Brazil was based on the premise, later developed in books heavy with jargon and abstract theory, that education is cultural action for freedom, that literacy only has value as a positive step towards liberation for the underprivileged of the world.

He scorned the readers, the Latin American equivalent of *Janet and John*, and began instead with words like *força* (strength), not just for its linguistic roots but because it was part of the life of those he worked with, a background that literacy would help them to change. The educator, he maintains, must learn from those he is teaching, become one with the oppressed rather than an emissary from the oppressor.

After a spell at Harvard, he is now education consultant to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, cut off from most of the real work in the Third World he would best do, though he has been encouraged by recent visits to Africa, and especially Guinea.

For the most part he is doomed to wander the world as a visiting lecturer, visiting colleges (the ultimate fate for a Brazilian), nervous of tape recorders, because of the police, but honoured guest of the academic establishment that fears as its enemy in his books.

At York, academic power in the person of Freire's host, the vice-chancellor, seemed notably unshaken by the message or its author. "I've told the students that it's up to them to do something about it," observed Professor Maurice Carstairs mildly. Perhaps

they should form their own learning groups.

Paulo Freire himself admits that there is little prospect of starting anything like his literacy programme in England. What he could offer the students at his seminar was some of the political education that lay behind it.

"They have no sense of history," he observed of young revolutionaries here who proclaim that all reform is useless until the system is changed, since it will only prop up the existing rotten system.

"If the revolution does not come in my time," he said, "and I still hope it will, I would hate it to be said of me that I did nothing."

For the several hundred disciples, by an means all from York, who packed his seminar, the guidance on what could be done to carry out his work here was not always encouraging. "I am not a pessimist, but not naively optimistic."

"The system of education does not shape society, society shapes the system. We do not work in the air, but in a concrete way in the structure of society. Our choice is not an educational one but a political one; we do not have educational progress, but political or cultural. The question is how to use some free space according to our choice, sometimes in opposition to the choice of those who have power."

But there were limits to how far you could go with that. "In history the ruling class never committed suicide. Because of that a radical system of education cannot be put into practice before a radical revolution of society. It would be very



"No need to apologize, Taylor, we know all about the South African plot to discredit you."

naive to expect a ruling class to put into practice a kind of education which makes them obsolete."

For an Irish man training in adult education to work in County Clare, and a community worker worried about developing critical consciousness within a government structure ("how can you make contact with a community when you have been employed to reverse trends of vandalism and rent arrears?") he had similar advice:

"Learn with the community, they know much more than you how to organize themselves. Work with them and learn their language and the structure of their thinking, or it is not possible to establish communication."

Even then it was difficult to avoid becoming a tool. "The ideology of the ruling class is that those who do not have power do not know how to organize. So they have to domesticate some young people for social work to go and organize. This activity ends up being an invasion."

Was it possible that this seminar was all part of the domestication process? A student from Manchester crystallized the dichotomy: "We're all petit bourgeois. The majority of people in radical politics are the sort of people who know what's best for everyone all round the world. The role of those in universities in the western world should be to get those on the side of the oppressors into solidarity with the oppressed, but the intellectual role of universities is to make them plan their oppressions. It makes one wonder why universities put on seminars like this."

"Because it's full of contradictions," said Professor Ian Lister, deschooler turned head of York's department of education, and the man who put on the seminar. "It was part of the role of the teacher in the school could play. Very little, according to Freire, apart from trying to avoid despair or cynicism and, once again, to discover free space in which to do something."

"He went on to join in the university bashing. 'Universities,' said Professor Freire, 'are turning into supermarkets where students come to buy and out knowledge. The consumption of knowledge has to do with the capitalist system.'"

He isn't against all universities, but one of his current preoccupations is trying to persuade African leaders not to create universities on the old model. "You must create from below, according to the social praxis you have now," he tells them. "If you create universities on the old patterns, you are creating lions to eat the people."

Truly, it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for an educated radical to break from the area of oppressors to join the oppressed.



Bags of puff and lots of concentration at the first National Schools Brass Band Festival at Central Hall, Westminster, last Saturday when 260 players from 15 different schools joined in a massed band conducted by Harry Mortimer.

## Shadows over a highland oasis

Gordonstoun, school for the famous, renowned for physical prowess, is branching out this summer with a special English language summer school designed to attract the sons of the Middle Eastern oil potentates.

Potatoes of language tuition, adventure training, culture, tourism and two—including trips to Balmoral and Loch Ness—for £500 not mounding fares. Though we are negotiating a contract with Middle East Airlines, the school's controller, John Ruscoe, said.

The idea is to make profitable use of the school's plant during the summer, and "to spread the gospel," particularly since, Mr Ruscoe says, the school feels it may be "under pressure of closure" if the government of Gordonstoun's 435 regular pupils come from abroad in any case.

The trouble is that, with two months to go, while they have had a great many inquiries, some of the 160 places are still unfilled. They have bookings from France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Germany, "the prince of Hannover's son is coming, you know," and Thailand—but not from the target area. "While we were mainly after the Arabs, we

felt we had to throw it open."

He described the lack of looking from the Middle East as "a slight administrative oversight" and said that they were "one out" to firm things up. "We are taking the comfortable view that in our experience the school's publicity agent, Mr. Abdulla, is doing a good job. 'What are you doing for the summer, Abdulla?' Better, he climb a few mountains," he said. "The fixed sterling price of course at a time when the pounds might be the exchange rate, gentlemen are hanging on to money."

But then Mr Ruscoe said he was expecting this year's summer school to show a "We're not stupid, I like it" while Mr Raitt sees the course as a long-term investment. "We aim to market the course over a period of years."

The scheme was given a boost last term when John Kempe, went on a tour of the Middle East. "You could say it cost the under £100," Mr Raitt said. "East Airlines helped with a ticket on a trade exchange. Kempe was housed and fed during the nine-day trip."

Afterwards Mr Raitt put a glowing newsletter in Saudi Arabia. Apparently, Mr Kempe, a leading Saudi figure, is shaking and prices are rising. "He met a large number of influential people from all over the world," Mr Raitt said. "In fact, 'at a moment of crisis' he had been prepared to take up those present at dinner."

"We are confident," the letter continued, "that the summer school will prove as good as gold for the boys who participate in the summer school." Luck is on his side.

## Next week

Neville Bennett and Noel Harrison in conversation with Jerome Marsh. Joslyn Owen and Vincent Rogers show the extent and implications of their research on teaching styles and pupil progress.

Gabriel Chanan on the work of Hannah Arendt, and John Austin; Preston King on justice; Pierre Weller on general strikes; a special review of reviews of academic work in the arts. Bryan Thwaites on mathematics teaching; TES Extra: Audio-tape review.

# THE TIMES Educational Supplement

## Defiant Tameside Tories race to sort out themselves

Philip Vennings

The Tory-controlled Tameside education authority could bring in teachers from outside the area if local teachers and council workers continue their boycott of the authority's plan to keep grammar schools. Mr Thompson, leader of the council, said on Wednesday that teachers and other volunteers from inside and outside Tameside had written asking for their help; if necessary he would be prepared to take up those offers.

But it now looks increasingly likely that Mr Fred Mulley, the Education Secretary, will put pressure on the council to drop their plans for a new admissions procedure.

It has become a race against time. The Tory council get their revised admissions procedure through before Mr Mulley takes action? If so, Mr Mulley will find it much harder to intervene: the 100 children aged 11 who were to have gone to comprehensive schools have had their school allocations changed twice. "To change them a third time will be difficult," Mr Mulley said.

Last week Mr Donald Thorpe, chairman of the education committee, had to meet Mr Mulley. But on Wednesday Mr Thorpe contacted Mr Mulley, informing him that the full council would be discussing their education plans next Tuesday. The first day possible under standing orders and that he would be

willing to see Mr Mulley sometime after then to explain the plans. By this time the Tories' revised admissions procedure should be nearly complete. On Tuesday this week, parents of 11 year olds in Tameside received letters from Mr Thorpe and Mr Genuham, which had been sent out previously from an estate agent's office because of a boycott by teachers' unions and local council workers.

The letter offered parents the choice to take up 250 places at Ashton and Hyde grammar schools, which would be the sixth form colleges in September. It also asked parents if they were happy with the school to which their child had been allocated, and whether they wanted to change the allocation. In the case of the grammar schools, the letter would be based on "professional guidance" and parental choice. The teachers' unions have already made it clear that they will not cooperate with any attempt to assess their pupils, so the professional guidance is likely to come from those teachers who are helping the council.

Replies have to be in by next Friday. By 10.00 am on the morning when parents received the letter replies were pouring in to the offices used as a temporary headquarters. A section of the letter, according to Mr Genuham, and named by volunteers. Last week Mr Mulley sent a strongly worded letter to the council asking for details of their plans

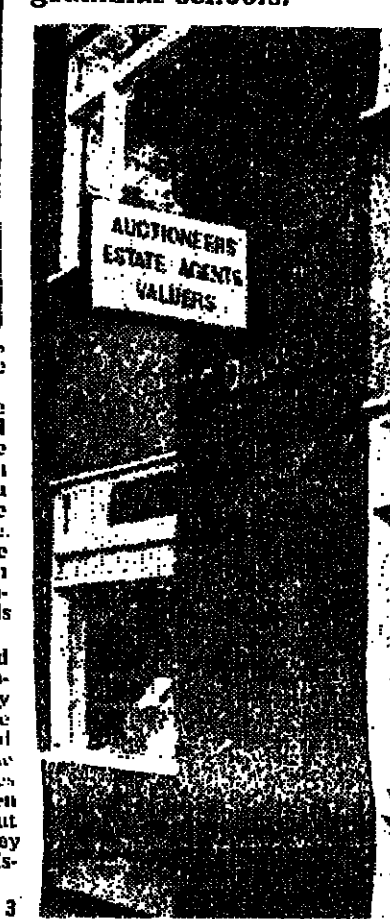


and warning them that he had powers under Section 68 of the Education Act to intervene if he judged the authority to be acting unreasonably. But speaking at the conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education last Saturday, he said that he could not do anything until he had been contacted by the authority and until the Tameside council had taken a formal decision. On Tuesday, members of the National Association of Head Teachers (which, with the National Association of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters, involved the dispute procedure a fortnight ago) sent to the Department of Education and Science a copy of Mr Thorpe's letter to parents.

The NAHT support the council may be acting illegally by not basing Section 13 notices because the schools would be significantly changing their character. If such notices had been published, the scheme would have to be delayed considerably.

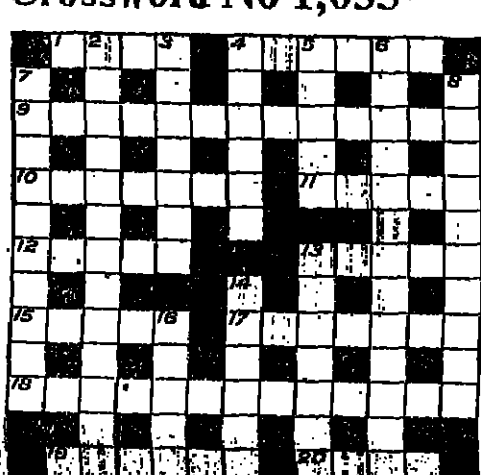
## The altered education

The estate agent at Ash-ton under Lyne (below) where volunteers (left) this week started to sift through parental applications for the reprieved grammar schools.



continued on page 3

## Crossword No 1,035



**ACROSS**  
1 Additional writing the morning after (4).  
4 The mall boat measures the heat (6).  
9 The bloom of garden love? (7, 8).  
10 Inverted signals of the bookmaker show manoeuvring scheme (7).  
11 One fever for a little (5).

**DOWN**  
2 In which notable works are stored (5, 6).  
3 Drinks for actors in The Tempest (7).  
4 Strong man who believes in autumn? (6).  
5 Distinction in French (5).  
6 Provides a short-cut to the green (6, 7).  
7 Do they show up stains on the boards? (10).  
8 A change in rent disorder (10).  
9 Appropriate platform for the Beak (7).  
10 Empty room of whom: Eliot wrote (5).  
11 Rising from one's knee (5).  
12 Solution to Puzzle No 1,034.

## Maths teasers

**Make your own magic squares**  
The magic square made with the numbers from 1 to 9 was known to Chinese mathematicians more than 4,000 years ago.  
(i) Use it to show that any set of nine consecutive numbers can be made into a magic square.  
(ii) Show that any set of nine numbers forming an arithmetic progression can be made into a magic square.

**These logs are not for burning:**  
Using logarithms to the base 10, find  $x$ , given that  $\log(x) = 2$ .  
Using logarithms to the base 2, find  $y$ , given that  $\log_2(y) = 10$ .  
Calculate whether  $x$  or  $y$  is the larger number.

**Share Apples**  
Peter and Paul were sharing apples, when they found that Peter had an odd number of them, then split an apple, they tossed the extra apple.  
Peter then said to Paul, "I gave you three of my apples, would have twice as many as I left." Paul said to Peter, "I gave you four of my apples, you have three times as many as I left."

**Make a magic square**  
(iii) Make a magic square with this set of numbers: 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29.  
(iv) Make a magic square of your own by choosing your own set of nine numbers in arithmetic progression.  
(v) You can make a magic square of your own with numbers that do not form an arithmetic progression, by choosing any number greater than 5 for the central cell, and filling the two diagonals with numbers that form APs whose common differences are not in the ratio 1:2 or 1:3, and then completing the square.

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## Worse before it gets worse

The latest instalment in the serial story of economic decline, which masquerades as the contemporary history of Britain, threatens another round of cuts for education. With the pound in a state of free fall and a Treasury whose credit is rapidly running out, there are confident, though cynical, expectations that as soon as the Trades Union Congress have been persuaded to ratify Mr

Healey's wage/tax deal, another round of public expenditure reductions will be unveiled. If these expectations are borne out, education will certainly not emerge unscathed, and the axe will be again fall on scars which are still livid from previous operations.

What enormously complicates the issue, of course, is the Government's precarious parliamentary position. Even if the TUC vote on June 16 is favourable, there is no knowing how the pay would stand up to a vigorous left-wing attack when the Government appear to double their union backers. More cuts must be made, and the Government must be able to affect employment. The construction industry, for example, could only suffer from a reduction in local authority building work—adding the £186m school building programme to start during the current year—which is the sort of instant saving to which governments regularly turn on these occasions.

More immediately pressing, and nearer home, is the latest circular from the Department of the Environment, which reports that local authority budgets appear to be running some £350-450m in excess of the guidelines used in last year's rate support grant negotiations. Part of this arises from a miscalculation of the 1975-76 figure for local authorities, which turns out to have been more than was forecast (not, as it happens, for education but for other services). The

preliminary figures produced by the local treasurers suggest that education spending is going to be over the top by £135m, or 3 per cent, unless it is further reined in.

From the government's point of view this does not mean asking for a further cut, only for local authorities to stay within limits which have already been laid down. It will be recalled that the quick survey carried out by the TES at the end of March indicated that education had done slightly better than expected. Perhaps this is the consequence.

How this £135m of overspending is distributed between the 105 local authorities is as yet unknown—the figure itself has still to be checked and refined—but it is likely that circumstances may differ widely from one area to another and, therefore, that the corrective action may be far from uniform. No doubt the first action of new councils elected in last month's local elections will be to cast a weather eye at their inherited budgets, and seek to prove their own virility by a new clamp down.

It goes without saying that none of this bodes well for teachers' jobs, nor yet for harmonious relations between teachers and their employers. But then it is not likely that education spending and teacher employment will exactly flourish if the pound goes down the slot in a general economic collapse which carries the Government away with it, either.

## No comment

The War pack will be studied by the fourth year groups. All aspects of the First and Second Year Wars and intra-national attitudes and relationships are involved—from a prospectus for a European experience week at a Newcastle comprehensive.

## Public purse overstretched?

More cuts in the education service now seem certain. First returns from local authorities show they might be overspending by £450m this year, £135m of it on education. page 3

## Fight on

Lecturers at the first NATFHE conference pledged themselves to fight all compulsory redundancies, while Mr Mulley again emphasized that teachers could not be treated as a privileged group. page 5

## Sit down demos

Student teachers put in some practice for their enforced idleness later in the year when up to 15,000 of them will be unable to find a job in school. Stephen Cohen reports on the teacher student shins. page 5

## Painting them white

Ronald Fletcher argues that what we need to aim for is a non-racial, not a multi-racial society. page 24

## Foreign, page 12

Denmark's new comprehensive system will allow parents and pupils to decide on streaming and examinations. Mike Duckenfield reports.

## Books, pages 21-28

A. S. Byatt on Jane Austen; Charles Rycroft on psychology; education, history, technology, higher education, arts books.

## Resources, pages 29-30

Adrian Hope on A.V. at work; Peter Green on the shortage of appropriate materials for design education; Elizabeth Mattheison on new play equipment.

## Talkback, page 31

Harry Stanton on the critics of

## Questions of style

Neville Bennett discusses the content, treatment and implications of his book on teaching styles and pupil progress with Jerome Trimmer, Noel Entwistle, Leonard Marsh, Joslyn Owen and Vincent Rogers. pages 17-19

## A philosopher for our time

Gabriel Chanan writes about Hannah Arendt, a writer and thinker he considers underestimated in Britain. page 20

## TES Extra: Inter Navex at Caxton '76

Articles on developments in modern communications; television, film-making and photography; pictorial aids. pages 39-50

## Education: Derek Merrill and John Freeman on community studies; Nick McCarty on the children of Cyprus.

## Arts reviews, pages 78-79

Hilary Finch on Afro-Caribbean culture; John Peter on theatre; Robin Macdonald on music; Christopher Griffin-Baile on access television; Carolyn O'Grady on a new programme for parents.

## Leaders, page 2; Personal column, page 4; Letters, pages 14, 15; Sport, page 16; Break, Crossword, Bridge, page 88.

## Classified ad

## Index



## Gentlemen v Players

The Adult Literacy Resources Agency have reported 60,000 students already enrolled and 40,000 volunteer tutors recruited. At first sight the figures suggest the literacy campaign has taken off with a bang and is capable of sustained growth. The tone of Frances Hill's article, *Keep, but can they teach...* (page 8), is much more guarded. For her, and some of those she spoke to, the campaign is already showing the predictable stresses of an over-financed educational prototype, crowded by amateurs—strong on good intentions but weak on design. The clue to this professional disenchantment with volunteer effort (and admittedly some volunteer failures in technique and stamina) is revealed in the plans for more research into what "literacy" means and what it is for. The tacit assumption of these plans appears to be that once the professionals have pronounced, at leisure, a diagnosis and a course of treatment (or, of course, a prophylactic against illiteracy in adolescence, which would make the adult remedial work redundant), the treatment would be administered by professionals, and the volunteers would find other causes to espouse and energy to about. (Perhaps the best case for using volunteers is that they will not agonize about what literacy is for.)

If Frances Hill is right educationists seem to be making claims to a unique competence in providing solutions to problems which are not wholly educational. The clients of the literacy campaign are out of schooling and, one can safely

assume, mostly disenchanted with their experiences of schools, teachers and formal education. Presumably an illiterate layman would not be able to read. There is no case as yet for the presumption of professional educators not only to tell him why he wants to read but to claim that they are the only people to teach him.

Adult illiteracy will be around for a long time. Unfortunately the education industry seems certain to produce an assured proportion of illiterates and semi-literates for years to come. Norman Sykes is right to point to the inadequacy of the department of Education and Science's commitment to helping the adult who is incompetent at least two of the three Rs. An assurance of at least five years' funding for the agency rather than another two years' grace might do much to persuade both volunteers and professionals of the value of their efforts.

No one in his right mind would now ask for £100m a year for the adult non-readers. This is not the time to sniff at a mere million, whatever the dollar exchange rate may be. But it is pertinent to compare what is offered to the illiterate with what is spent on the student of the Open University, a student of the value of their own efforts.

The professionals are right to press for a firm Government commitment to the literacy programme. It would be wrong to dismiss the value of the volunteer element of the programme after only one year of its encouraging people to learn in their own ways, from each other.

## Mene mene tekkel upharsin

It is hardly surprising that Brian Clough's record for the first Test match has been greeted with derision. The selectors have panicked in the face of the West Indian pace attack, and decided to recall a 45-year-old iron man from Yorkshire, whose personal record in international cricket is mediocre and who, whatever else he is, is clearly not as young as he used to be. Instead of looking for a promising youngster and using that present series to bring on a new talent, they have gloomily concluded there is no one coming along who can do as well as a middle-aged ex-hero of unsuccessful battles long ago.

It is one thing to attack the selectors for lack of nerve, but what if their judgment is correct? Over the last 20 years central and local government have spent an increasing amount of money subsidizing youth sport, including cricket. Is this all there is to show for it—on the obvious paucity of up-and-coming players capable of playing fast bowling or retaining the flippant reduction of the one-day, limited

## Closed shop again

It is only to be expected that recent industrial relations legislation should cause the teachers' unions to look again at their attitude to the closed shop. The first to do so publicly, the National Association of Head Teachers (page 4), have reaffirmed unanimously their opposition to the closed shop as a basic principle of their association. The speeches from the floor echoed this theme with considerable vehemence, and conveyed what till now might be called the traditional attitude of the teaching profession.

What remains to be seen is whether the National Union of Teachers still adopt this line. If, as is of course, the NUT under the leadership of Mr Ronald Gould, who stood out against the attempt of the Labour-controlled Durham County Council, to make all their teachers join a union in 1951. NUT members went on strike, and eventually the

then Labour Minister of Education, Mr George Tomlinson, intervened with a formal direction to Durham that they should accept the union membership.

Now, as members of the NUT, the stand on professional principle, and more likely to have an eye on the teachers' union they could hope to benefit from, a union membership requirement and, particularly, to build up the membership in secondary education where they face considerable competition from the traditional secondary teachers' associations.

As yet there seems no evidence that the union members want to import the closed shop into education, nor yet that they have come to terms with what it might mean for them. It is not clear how they will exercise their power in this way. And any way, the teachers' qualified status is an exclusive ticket which protects his craft from invasion by cheap alternative labour.

## Play's the thing...

Play, as we all know, is a very serious business. Indeed, it is one of the important ingredients in the evolution of our species. Children learn and develop through play, and many effective and productive adults bring a surprising amount of playfulness to their work.

In formal education, we have found it remarkably difficult to harness children's play to the business of learning. Successful practitioners have done it for centuries, but they have been less successful at passing on just what they do. Their message can be transmitted into the kind of "progressive" education Sir Alec Clegg describes as "wet playtime all day long".

One difficulty is that if play is to be a powerful stimulus for invention and problem-solving, the inventions and solutions usually involve a good deal of toil and sweat.

"The production of creative surprise demands a masterful control of the medium. It is not the product of a spontaneous seizure, an act of sudden glory. Music and mathematics give gifts to the well prepared. So, too, poetry and engineering. How curious that surprise grows in the soil of grinding work. A woman at a dinner party is allowed to have said to Alfred North Whitehead, 'We are all philosophers, you know.' 'Yes, he agreed, 'but some of us spend all day at it'."

This extract from Jerome Bruner comes from a fat new symposium, *Play: its role in development and evolution*, edited by J. S. Bruner, A. Jolly and K. Sylva (Penguin, £2.75). They have brought together a wide range of material, with the solid stuff of scientific and academic journals lightened by a few (heaven forbid) you said it from cover to cover, you would not end up with most of what is known, and much speculation, about the most enigmatic word in the education lexicon—the horse's mouth.

Dipping in gives rise to many complicated and often contradictory thoughts about the role of play in young. Playfulness is a mal character of higher species—monkeys, dolphins, men. People play for fun, and no doubt for pleasure, but much cleverer at discovering solutions to problems if they are allowed to play with materials that help in the solution. They are less likely to give up, if they approach it playfully.

And they do not care about bribes—monkeys do just as well at discovering how to combine sticks into a rake if the target is some delicious morsel. If the goal



Virginia Makins on research into the importance of play

is too attractive, they may get frustrated. Or they may forget all about the bribe in the fun of solving the problem. In play, it is means that count, not ends.

An important thing about play is the way it frees people from tension and alarming consequences. The Opies' work on children's games shows how apparently pointless games can allow quite daring social contacts for shy children.

Play allows children to experiment beyond their real level of competence and always above his average age, above his daily behaviour: in play it is as though he writes L. S. Vygotsky. (The converse of play is when the reassuring effect of a baby games children who have high standards set for them.)

Yet a lot of the games people invent are highly competitive, and create pressure and tension. Nor are the consequences always trivial—deep play where the stakes are enormous—as in Russian roulette or drug experiments or (described by Clifford Geertz) the alarming betting around Ballinese cockfights. Games reflects society—the Tangu of New Guinea, a cooperative lot,

play a game called Takelak, the aim is to provide equal share for all. Very different from Western zero sum games, where must have winners and losers.

Of course, children do not see all their lives as play. Children, perfectly clear when they are playing, and check if there is any danger. Catherine Harvey, looking at play, gives an example. One day she says, "I want to go to the top of the tree." "Really?" asks the other. "That's going to be a bit of a climb," she says. "No, pretend."

Even in highly imaginative play, reality imposes itself. W. H. Auden describes an imaginary land where, he says, took up most of his waking hours between the ages of six and 12. Since it was a private world, he could not imagine anything I liked, but practice I found it was not so.

For example, he had to find a winding engine. "I could not, whether mine should be driven by a pump or an adit, but was in an agony of indecision. As it was, I should have been free to imagine anything I liked, but practice I found it was not so.

A certain amount is known of what prevents children from playing, and so from becoming imaginatively and socially competent. Starvation from either poverty or overindulgence. Occasional play is easy to detect exactly. It is play is contributing to development—whether it is young child fiddling with sticks and grass, or they get old enough to sit them into holes to catch termites, or young children playing with sounds and grammatical structures when they are learning to talk.

But in general (as Bruner's important essay on the nature of play is difficult to detect just what is going on. It is as though he writes L. S. Vygotsky. (The converse of play is when the reassuring effect of a baby games children who have high standards set for them.)

Yet a lot of the games people invent are highly competitive, and create pressure and tension. Nor are the consequences always trivial—deep play where the stakes are enormous—as in Russian roulette or drug experiments or (described by Clifford Geertz) the alarming betting around Ballinese cockfights. Games reflects society—the Tangu of New Guinea, a cooperative lot,

This collection makes an excellent starting point for any discussion about the links between play and learning. The trouble is that thinking through the practical educational implications of the large weight of literature on play is awfully hard work.

## Letters to the Editor

### Professor Peston's quotas

Sir,—I must protest, at Professor Maurice Peston's remarks about university entrance (*Personal Column*, May 28).

I do not expect Professor Peston to believe me, but it is my clear impression that at Oxford and in my subject at least, college tutors operate a positive bias in favour of candidates from comprehensive schools. That is to say, when they think they see promise in a candidate they are often willing to overlook some indifferent papers on the grounds that the pupil may have been less well, and will certainly have been less intensively, taught than a candidate from an independent school.

In my view, this bias is justified at present, for while, as Professor Peston says, it would be unreasonable to argue that academic education cannot be provided at any comprehensive school, it seems clear that it is not being provided at some (perhaps many) such schools.

But to go on from this to argue that universities should be required to set aside a quota of places for comprehensive school candidates is grotesque. Universities are places where people study academic subjects, or learn professional skills

### High price of being progressive

Sir,—The matter of education expenditure in primary schools has not been brought into the formal—informal debate. Michael Marshall and Ian Leslie's article, "A penny for all their thoughts" (March 28), raised the question of money for educational resources.

I checked the source quoted in their article for 1974-75 actual expenditure. The following table shows the expenditure a primary school pupil a year for educational books, materials and equipment:

|                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Cumbria                                                                  | £5.10  |
| Lancashire                                                               | £5.61  |
| These were the two counties surveyed by the University of Lancaster team |        |
| Average (all authorities)                                                | £7.50  |
| ILEA                                                                     | £15.40 |

On the basis of a five-hour teaching day, a five-day week and a 40-week year, a teacher in a Cumbria school could spend one halfpenny a child an hour.

From experience, informal methods require a greater use of equipment, materials, books and paper than formal teaching, which requires only talk, chalk and notebook. There is a grave danger that Neville Bennett's book may encourage formal methods because they have the great advantage of being cheap.

KEN HULBERT,  
40b Garside Road,  
Forest Hill, London SE23 2RT.

More letters, pages 14, 15

## More cuts loom as I.e.a.s are warned for overspending

by Mark Vaughan

Yet another round of education cuts is expected after the Government's warning that local authorities appear to be overspending this year by £35m to £45m.

This sum represents an excess of spending of 5 per cent over figures agreed by local authority associations and the Government when the support grant settlement for 1976-77 was reached last November. Education's share of the excess is estimated to be £15m, equal to a 3 per cent increase (£4,905m, compared with the accepted level of £4,770m).

In addition, returns now show that local authority spending last year was possibly 1 to 2 per cent (£1,200m) higher than estimated.

The local authorities have been asked by the Government to urgently examine their spending plans for this year and to estimate the income so that a more detailed and accurate picture can be made from additional returns. This new information must be ready by July 16, and there is "no possibility" of extending this date.

A joint circular from seven Government departments was hurriedly published last week. It followed the confidential meeting of the Conservative Council on Local Government and the new Expenditure Steering Group for Education. "Local authorities will know that the present economic situation makes it imperative that the Government's plans for public expenditure are not exceeded," it says.

The circular adds that the conservative council do not believe the amount shown in the initial returns. "But since these figures are supplied by local authorities themselves, and because the local rates levied was intended to finance

such spending, action must clearly be taken to ensure that the expenditure guidelines are met."

Although the circular is seen by many as an initial warning to the local authorities, the local authority associations are taking this latest information seriously.

One education officer said: "It does not appear well for education — if these figures are correct, then sucking teachers is going to be the only way of saving large sums of money."

The Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said they expected their members to make further cuts as a result of the latest information, although they will vary considerably from the authority to authority.

Part of the rate support grant settlement is an agreement between the authorities and the Government on the number of teachers who will be needed during the year. Since teachers' salaries form the major part of the education budget, it can be assumed that they account for a significant part of the £35m. If, for example, a fifth of the excess went on teachers' salaries, it would mean that the LEAs are employing between 5,000 and extra teachers, unknown to the Department of Education and Science.

The returns were compiled by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Department of the Environment. It is the first year they have produced such early estimates. According to the "greater financial vigilance" shown by central and local government over expenditure.

The Government made it clear in the circular that some authorities must adjust this year's budgets. "It is now essential that the projec-

tions of individual authorities should be revised so that the overall total of local authority current expenditure is brought into line with the agreed figures for public expenditure."

The Government recognizes that, in order to do so, some authorities may have to modify their services further than they may have assumed earlier guidance to imply."

There is a firm reminder that the 1977-78 rate support grant settlement will be based on figures in the White Paper on public expenditure. In the past, the opening rounds of the rate support grant negotiations have established a base line of what the authorities spent the previous year. Next year, if the authorities overspend, they will have to find the money from the rates.

The circular says that the estimates may be high because local authorities have made the wrong assumptions about inflation or because they have kept too much money in their balances.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, commented: "We have no evidence to suggest that any local authority has planned to improve its staffing standards, much though we want them to do so."

"We do not see, therefore, how there can have been overspending so far as the education estimates are concerned. On the contrary, all the evidence points to authorities either conforming to the Government's own guidelines, or making more cuts in provision than even the Government intended."

He said the NUT would strongly oppose any attempt by LEAs to use the circular as an excuse to make cuts in staffing. The Department of Education said that the total of 57,000 produced from these sums was a "very good" achievement, even 40 per cent staying on rate.

## Who controls the media?

by Christopher Griffin-Beale

The IBA have cancelled the second showing of *Viewpoint*, Thames Television's secondary schools series on the media due to be transmitted in the autumn.

The cancelled series last month and felt, according to a spokesman, that it was not sufficiently impartial, under the Television Act. This requires producers to preserve "due impartiality" on matters of public interest or controversy, or of current public policy.

This is thought to be the first time a schools series has been withdrawn at such a late stage.

The programmes were widely praised for the year. A spokesman said this week that the cancellation "appreciated the censor's 'autocratic' decision". They would not comment while discussion continued with the IBA.

*Viewpoint* was designed to enable children to think about how the media are controlled. It was the viewpoint of any programme, including *Viewpoint*.

## Tameside Tories go it alone

continued from page 1

Under normal circumstances an authority is under no obligation to put into effect a selection of its own policies. In Tameside would not have to publish Section 13 notices merely to keep the existing schools. But questions arise over two purposes—multi-comprehensives due to start taking pupils in September, and the wider issue of admitting selected pupils to grammar schools.

Does this constitute a significant change in character? Mr Grumham said that they were taking legal advice but he believed that they were within their rights not to issue the notices.

The National Association of Head Teachers have passed a motion commending members of the Tameside head teachers' association for their "responsibility and entirely professional stance over the Conservatives' plan. They also agreed to urge the Education Secretary to use his powers under Section 68 of the Education Act "to stop Tameside authority from acting in an unreasonable manner."

Most reports suggest the series was well-received in schools, and there were no major complaints from teachers using the series.

## How to succeed on 2.7 per cent

The Labour Party could achieve the equivalent of 2.7 per cent per annum in abolishing public schools, day care for all 16 to 19-year-olds, and other improvements by 1989 if it could spend only 2.7 per cent a year after 1979.

Professor Maurice Peston, of Queen Mary College, London, in a Fabian pamphlet, argues that this is partly because of falling pupil numbers—the number of children who had been fully educated by 1989 would be 2.7 million. This seems to be a very significant figure even though it is not affecting as it does not young people entering the labour force eventually the size of the labour force itself.

Professor Peston uses a projection of numbers in the 1980s based on the assumption that the number of births will not rise significantly. He calculates that the educational objectives set in 1969 if current

spending rose from £4,396m to £5,260m and capital spending from £344m to £800m over the previous 10 years.

To abolish public schools would cost between £150m and £200m. "We have so far done nothing about this," he says.

There is a large extent on the grounds of cost and because the existing system could not cope with the influx of extra pupils. But the latter will no longer be quite so hindering a constraint in an era of population decline and there will be no reason for local education authorities to take places in private schools.

If all 16 to 19-year-olds received the equivalent of one day a week release for three years, an extra £225,000 further education places would be needed as well as those already planned. At current costs this would work out at £212m. A further £100m would be needed to increase adult education substantially.

Some improvements in pupil teacher ratios would mean an extra 5 to 10 per cent spending over the decade, while some of the higher education could be achieved with an extra £75-£100m.

Using slightly lower standards than existed in the 1970s, the total further and higher education building programme in 1989 would have been £250m, which would have been used to replace and improve old schools, bring comprehensives to appropriate sizes, and incorporate independent schools.

"The growth rate implied by these figures is about 2.7 per cent per annum, about the same as the likely growth of GDP and slower than the intended growth in the 1970s before the cuts." Since the calculations were conservative, such a programme should be regarded as minimal.

*Social Priorities*. Edited by Howard Glenister. Fabian Research series no. 327, 55p.

## Row in the air over plan to axe another 4,000

by Stephen Cohen

The Government's advisory committee on teacher training are set for a stormy session next Tuesday, when proposals to cut training places by another 4,000 will be made. Also on the agenda is the controversial plan to retire teachers early.

A confidential Government document, *The Teacher Force in the 1980s*, was given to committee members at their meeting in March but it was not discussed. It contains the Department of Education's reasons for the new cuts and says that 57,000 training places will be needed to provide a total teaching force of 457,000 in 1977-78.

Previous targets were 61,000 places for a work force of 480,000. The document says: "The most rapid reduction in teacher training will be required which is consistent with maintaining the training system in a viable condition."

Several assumptions are made about entry of students into teacher training. These were attacked this week by Mr Jack Taylor, president of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

The Department assume that 12,000 students will be admitted to 4 Ed and certificate courses each year and that the intake of postgraduate students will not rise by 1,000 a year. It is assumed that 50 per cent of students would stay on after their third year to take a degree.

Also included in the calculations are 1,000 places for private overseas students who want to train in English and Welsh colleges. A further 12,000 places are for in-service training.

Mr Taylor said that the total of 57,000 produced from these sums was a "very good" achievement, even 40 per cent staying on rate.

"There is the category of 1,000 overseas students. They have never been seen before in the calculation, and there are probably only about 500 here now."

NATFHE are opposed to any further reduction in the targets. "We accepted 480,000 and 60,000 and we stand by them," Mr Taylor said.

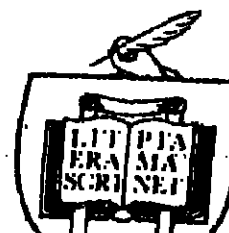
The association do not oppose the early redundancies scheme, however, provided it is not compulsory. The National Union of Teachers is undecided, but they are opposed to teacher and student reductions.

The National Association of Schoolmasters-Union of Women Teachers on different terms. The Government propose to pension teachers off over 50. The NAS-UTW will suggest on Tuesday that teachers should get the same pensions between 60 and 65 as they would if they retired at 65.

A series of Parliamentary questions on teacher training have been tabled by Dr Keith Hampton, secretary of the Conservative education committee, to be answered by Mr Fred Mulley, the Education Secretary, next week.

Dr Hampton said in the Commons last week that the Government must come clean on the question of further cuts in the supply of newly qualified teachers.

"They can no longer hide last year's forecast of 60,000 training places by 1980 in any blatant subterfuge, since this figure includes a forecast of 12,000 teachers in in-service training. They owe it to the colleges and their staff, whom they have already demoralized by their shoddy and ill-thought out reorganizations, to say whether the target is now only 45,000."



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## Draft in jobless to keep order

Unemployed teachers should be retained and put in charge of the "naughty and pestiferous pupils" who disrupt normal classes, head teachers were told on Monday.

Miss Beryl Aldridge, headmistress of Wimslow Girls' School, said that while she deplored the term "naughty", there was a desperate need for special educational facilities to stop disruptive youngsters gaining the upper hand.

"Naughty and pestiferous pupils should be dealt with in very small groups or on a one-to-one basis. This would deprive them of their captive audience. As there are so many teachers without jobs and so much talk of retraining, why should unemployed people not be retained to cope with disruptive children? They could be attached to schools as extra staff," she said.

Head teachers are concerned about the rapid growth of disruptive pupils in our schools. This is not because we want to conduct our affairs in academic peace but in the interests of the majority of pupils whose progress can be seriously retarded by those whose deliberate intention is to provoke.

For some years the government

have turned a deaf ear to this problem and have pretended it does not exist. Well, it does exist. It exists to the point of making the schools almost intolerable in some cases for head teachers and, in particular, for young, inexperienced members of staff.

"Everyone agrees that knowledge cannot be imparted without control. Yet today even some experienced teachers are finding it difficult to maintain control in their classes."

Mr Clifford Fisher of Kingston upon Thames said teachers often needed physical courage to deal with disruptive pupils. Yet disruption was not just the result of poor homes; it could also spring from the failure of the schools to teach children properly.

A child who did not learn to read

## Closed shop turned down

The heads voted unanimously to oppose closed shops in schools.

On Tuesday representatives of the 19,000-strong NAHT agreed to "safeguard the freedom of the individual by standing firm against the suggestion that all teachers must be members of a union". Ironically their decision came on the day the new Employment Protection Act which legalizes closed shops became law.

Mr Colin Pidgeon, of Herefordshire, said closed shops were totalitarian. He was working for 100 per cent membership of the NAHT in his area but teachers must be persuaded to join a union not conscripted.

"We want more than the right to choose where to buy a suit. We

want the choice of whether or not to buy one at all."

Mr Roy Cutton, also from Herefordshire, said in most European countries it was an offence for an employer to take account of whether a person belonged to a union or not. "The new law in Britain is contrary to EEC policy."

"The NAHT have no axe to grind, other than our desire to maintain personal freedom. We do not want to achieve 100 per cent membership of this association by compulsion."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary

National Association of Head Teachers conference, Worthing Reports by Sue Cameron

## Common exam system by 1979

Head teachers have called for a common system of examining at 16-plus to be established wherever possible by 1979.

A motion supporting proposals for the reform of 16-plus examinations was carried despite fierce opposition. Mr Clifford Fisher of Kingston upon Thames said Schools Council feasibility studies of common examinations had not been effective.

"The 16-plus proposals mark yet another move by the Schools Council to justify its existence. The main reason they have put forward is because the council is dominated by the National Union of Teachers who are biased towards the CSE."

"If we took carefully at the council's feasibility studies we can see that they will be mainly CSE based. There has been no evaluation of standards for 16-plus examinations and there has not been a full costing programme for a common system. Examination conditions would mean higher entry fees all round."

But Mr Walter Snook of Sheffield told delegates that although new 16-plus examinations would have their faults, existing examinations had faults too. There was a two per cent error in the marking of A-level examinations, for instance. And the cost of introducing new examinations at 16-plus had been exaggerated.

Mr Fisher's amendment, calling for a decision on 16-plus examinations to be deferred until satisfactory feasibility studies had been produced, was defeated.

It is one of the more regrettable aspects of our maintained secondary schools that they use those characteristics of the public schools that the public schools themselves view with some embarrassment. Take the strange obsession with the achievement of old boys. I can hear now the complacent tones of the headmaster when the first comprehensive schoolboy becomes a public schoolboy.

"It is in no small measure due to the sound education he received in this school..."

When will headmasters realize that there is little connexion between secondary education and worldly success? I remember thinking that I should draw the attention of Westminster boys to the bicentenary of the publication of Edward Gibbon's first volume of *Decline and Fall*, but on consulting the *Oxford Dictionary of English Literature* I found that he had been "educated at Westminster and Magdalen College, Oxford, but received little benefit from either."

Perhaps some consideration of the infamous would help, for if a delinquent can claim credit for his prime ministers, it must also share some of the blame for its criminals. In all fairness should not those headmasters' reports on speech day and those old boys' notes in the school magazine pay due attention to the crooks that all schools produce?

In the hope of encouraging my colleagues in the maintained and independent sectors to keep the achievements of their alumni in perspective, I offer those brief, historically accurate old boys' notes of infamous Westminsterers.

George Jeffreys (1661-63), writer from the West Country where he is busy with the trial and execution of rebels. His friends will not be surprised to learn that he is conducting his Bloody Assize with his customary disregard for justice and mercy. He has sentenced 800 rebels to be sold into slavery and a further 300 to be executed, at the same time extorting money from the friends of the accused. Well done, George!

An unusual meeting between Old Westminsterers took place recently when Lord William Byron (1732-38) killed William Chaworth (1735-44) in a back room of the Star and Garter. Lord William has been found guilty of manslaughter, but exempted from punishment as a peer. It is good to know that the sword with which he killed his fellow Westminsterer hangs on the wall of his bedroom.

## Children exploited as cheap labour, says head

Hundreds of school children are being robbed of their education by unscrupulous employers who persuade them to take illegal jobs, it was claimed this week.

Miss Beryl Aldridge, head of Wimslow Girls' Secondary School, in Cheshire, told the NAHT conference in Worthing that pupils were often too tired and dispirited to concentrate on their lessons because of long hours spent in illegal employment at weekends.

"It is very tempting to be offered the chance to earn some money but to do so girls and boys tolerate working conditions that are not permissible and certainly not beneficial to their education. They are often led into believing that these jobs will lead to permanent employment once they can legitimately leave school."

But the fact is they are being

## 'Breeding ground for revolution'

Jobless school leavers were a fertile breeding-ground for revolution, head teachers were told on Monday.

Mr Stanley Dixon, head of St John's Comprehensive, Epping, estimated there could be as many as 250,000 16-year olds unemployed by next summer.

"The problem is one of gigantic proportions. It is one of those things where people are leaving our classrooms and are immediately rejected as surplus to requirements by industry and society."

"They may be less well organized than the National Union of Students but they constitute a more fertile breeding-ground for revolution than all the sociology departments in British university campuses rolled into one."

## PERSONAL COLUMN

### Where are they now?

John Rae

Incidentally, we hear that his nephew, "Mad Jack" Byron (1765-70), has obtained an income of £4,000 a year by seducing the Marchioness of Conyngham, the wife of his near-contemporary at school, Francis Osborne (1760-64).

Congratulations to John Cleland (1720-23, King's Scholar) on being summoned before the Privy Council for writing "a scandalously indecent book" called *Fanny Hill* or *The Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*—is doing well, we understand, and is to be followed by *Memoirs of a Coxcomb*.

Richard Graham, Lord Preston (1660-64), has had the double distinction of being condemned to death for treason and of obtaining a pardon by rattling on his accomplices. Richard has, of course, been imprisoned in the Tower on two previous occasions but his latest success surpasses even that achievement.

We regret to announce the death of Robert Savage, Earl Rivers (1660-62). His many school friends will remember Tyburn Road with affection. He was one of the most handsome and profligate Westminsterers and his reputation for debauchery is unlikely to be bettered. He was characteristic of his generation and realism that in his will he provided a legacy for 20 London prostitutes as well as for his various illegitimate children.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield (1808-10) continues to seek advancement by unscrupulous methods. His runaway marriage with the heiress, Eliza Pattle, was notified in our last issue. We now learn with pleasure that he has been sentenced to three years imprisonment for abducting a wealthy schoolgirl, Ellen Turner, and tricking her into marriage.

scrupulous employers who will do use for them once they leave school. And in the meantime the chances of benefiting from schooling are being severely

Miss Aldridge added that regulations from the Department of Health and Social Security laid down that under-16s should work for more than five hours a day, with a maximum working day of 25 hours. Over 15s are limited to eight hours a day and a maximum working week of 40 hours. The introduction of these rules would be delayed for a year, and Miss Aldridge thought about them before they were finally established.

But Mr David Blackford, of St Ives County Secondary School, Cornwall, said the law on employment was often broken through ignorance.

## How families are failing

Parents have abdicated their responsibility to teach basic moral standards to their children, Mr Campbell-Smith, the new president of the National Association of Teachers, said on Saturday.

He warned his fellow heads of a "disturbing trend in the relationship between parents and their children" on whom the burden on the schools. All too often teachers had to tell their pupils a basic difference between right and wrong.

"Parents have forgotten to talk to their children, to tell them or to guide their first steps along the paths of literacy. All too often even the difference between right and wrong is left to somebody else to deal with at a later stage of the child's life."



Stin at Rachel McMillan College—see "Mothers protest"

## Students call crisis meeting as jobless campaign is stepped up

by Stephen Cohen

Delegates from most of the 170 colleges of education and polytechnics with teaching studies departments will meet in Didsbury, Manchester, tomorrow, to decide on the next moves in the National Union of Students' campaign on teacher employment.

The emergency national delegate conference has been convened to approve the union's plans for a week of action to start on Monday. Up to 600 students are expected to attend.

Occupations of teacher-training colleges continued this week. More than 50 institutions were affected, including Bellerbairt and Glasgow universities in Scotland. So far, the union's executive have refrained from instructing members in England and Wales universities to take part in the protest against the dismal employment prospects for the summer.

Two universities have called for a full emergency conference, but Mr Charles Clarke, NUS president, is against the idea. He fears the union might be stopped by the Conservative-controlled House of Commons. However, it only needs demands from eight other institutions for such a conference to take place.

All 81 of the union's full-time staff are working full-time on the unemployment campaign. Information desks are to be set up in all colleges to take a census of students with and without jobs on September 1. A survey of class sizes in local schools will also be carried out. Mr Clarke said students would go into the schools to tell children that 3.5 million were in danger of over 30.

Thousand children in Manchester had to go to school last week because there were not enough teachers. Yet in the middle of the education which would provide teachers this summer who would find jobs.

The union's international department are conducting a lobby of "A.P.s." Another staff unit is organising protests at local education offices, while a third group is dealing with trade unions to make sure there is no friction between the occupations.

The finance department is setting up a lighting fund to run the campaign and the union's new executive officer started his first week of work fixing up pop groups and theatre companies to entertain the unemployed.

The success of the campaign so far has exceeded the union's expectations. They have never had so many colleagues taking part in a nationally coordinated protest. "It

## Mothers protest

Husbands and children took part in a 24-hour occupation of Rachel McMillan College, London, last weekend (see picture above). All 200 mature students at the college are mothers. The occupation could not be extended any further because of their family commitments, said Mrs Dahl, the union's secretary.

Neither will they be sending anyone to the emergency conference tomorrow. "We've got families to look after," she said. Only a few students have found work.

Married women find it harder to obtain teaching jobs because they are seen as a liability to the school. "We also cost more because of the extra salary increments for our age and experience."

could be that student teachers are used to being told what to do," said a union spokesman, "but they are genuinely angry."

A few occupations ended last Friday, but were started again on Tuesday after the Bank Holiday weekend.

New figures published by the NUS this week show that 30 students out of 130 at Phillips Fawcett College, South London, have jobs, 60 out of 300 at Bulmershe in Reading, 31 out of 250 in Doncaster, 291 out of 734 in Leeds and 70 out of 400 in Liverpool.

In Northern Ireland 1,800 students are chasing 800 jobs. Only 12 per cent of students at one Scottish college have a job lined up.

The union's campaign seeks a guarantee of full employment for all qualified teachers, an immediate commitment to reduce class sizes to 30 (thereby creating 58,000 vacancies) and no more cuts in the student teacher intake at colleges.

Public meetings will be held in Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield, Cardiff and Birmingham next week, a demonstration in London is planned for June 15 and there will be a lobby of the TUC special conference on June 16.

Forty-eight lecturers in the education studies faculty of Portsmouth Polytechnic supported a one-day boycott of classes by their students last week. At the end of term 245 students will be qualifying; they were admitted to training between 1972 and 1974. In the reasonable expectation that the new employment would be available to them in schools, they said in a statement. "To date, only 26 are known to have secured posts. It must be stressed that, in our professional opinion, the vast majority of those disappointed are the dedicated students, many of whom would make fine teachers."

## Caught in the Act: White Paper fails to satisfy critics

by Frances Stadlen

Last week's White Paper on the working of the Children and Young Persons Act of 1969 has disappointed many of the Act's critics. It was their evidence to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee and the committee's subsequent report last year that prompted the government to reconsider their position on the treatment of children in trouble.

Mr Joseph Brayshaw, secretary of the Magistrates Association, said this week that the White Paper was disappointing and incomplete. "It fails to give the juvenile courts the powers they need to make a secure care order," he said.

The White Paper proposes extra powers for magistrates to recommend a local authority in certain cases what to do with a child. This could include a recommendation for secure accommodation. But Mr Jeremy Burns, assistant general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, said that such decisions should remain entirely with the local authorities.

Mr Brayshaw said that his association was glad that parents were to be made responsible for the payment of their children's fines as the present law gives no adequate means of enforcing payment.

Other organizations, including the British Association of Social Workers and the Howard League for Penal Reform, were strongly opposed to this recommendation. They said that many parents would be unable to pay and it would not be constructive to make them face prison if they did not pay. It would also be contrary to the Government's objective of reducing the prison population; locking up or punishing parents would not help children in trouble, they said.

They were worried that, when delinquency was caused by bad relations between parents and children, it would make matters worse to make parents responsible for a fine that the child would not or could not pay. It could also encourage the child to think that he need not worry about the consequences of his behaviour.

Critics of the Act disagreed over the desirability and number of secure places needed for children. The White Paper recommended that 729 magistrates should be able to suggest secure accommodation for a child in care. It stressed that more secure places should be provided, and that local authorities should have direct grants to build them. This, it claimed, would make the use of prisons and remand centres for juveniles unnecessary.

The Magistrates Association said: "It is a disgraceful scandal that some accused juveniles should be kept in prisons or remand centres until their trial. This arises entirely from the failure of the local authorities to provide secure accommodation. We are glad they are going to be given grants to do this."

Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said the government's response to the "scandal" of children in prison was "tragically inadequate."

"It now seems certain that 10 years after the Act was passed we are locking up thousands of juveniles in remand centres every year. Remand centres are staffed by prison officers, have perimeter security and contain a criminal sub-culture of young adult offenders. They are breeding grounds of crime and are totally unsuitable for juveniles."

"NACRO believes that regional planning committees should be given powers, including financial powers, to provide sufficient suitable residential places for juveniles remanded in custody, in accordance with local authority requirements, that further day care should be made available to the courts to minimize the need for remands, and that foster homes might provide accommodation for some young people on remand as well as for those under a care order," he said.

Most of the liberal critics of the Act agree that secure residential places, including secure homes, were needed, but they wanted more non-residential treatment, and welcomed the White Paper's emphasis on this. However, most of them had asked where the money would come from.

Mr Hinton said NACRO welcomed the Government's recognition that the extent of intermediate treatment was totally inadequate, and the positive moves in the White Paper about fostering and non-residential care. This would remain the service, however, unless resources were switched to such programmes, he said.

The Personal Social Services Council, who have a study group looking at how intermediate treatment has worked, said that the White Paper's approval of it was "timely and gratifying."

Mr Colin Conway, for the Educational Welfare Officers National Association, welcomed the White Paper's recommendation that the educational welfare service should take over supervision orders on remand. Although Mr Conway was confident that educational welfare officers could take on case work of this sort, there is reason to believe that not all educational welfare officers share either his confidence or his desire for the job.

Mr Jeremy Burns of BASW said that the reaction to the White Paper was "the greatest problem that we face". He favoured individual social workers being able to specialize in juvenile delinquency as long as it did not damage the generic character of social workers or of social services departments. The National Association of Head Teachers and the Juvenile Liaison department of Scotland Yard were unable to comment on the White Paper this week.

## Fewer cuts for Welsh, say TUC

The Welsh TUC want Wales to be protected from education cuts because the standards of education and training in the Principality already fall behind those in England.

They issued several reports this week on the effect of public expenditure cuts in Wales. Those included documents on comprehensive re-organization cuts, cuts in spending and training opportunities.

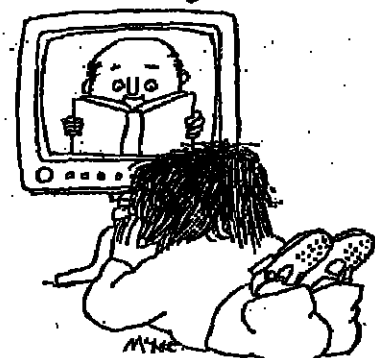
On comprehensive education they say that in spite of the Welsh regard for academic qualifications and the more rapid spread of comprehensive than in England, less academic pupils get a poor deal. Fewer Welsh children stayed on after 16 (54.8 per cent in 1973 compared with 58.6 per cent in England), and the proportion of English children doing so was growing faster.

In 1974 more Welsh pupils (31 per cent) than English (20 per cent) left school without any qualifications. "Welsh schools lag behind the English in their provision for the less academic," says the report. This was reflected in the higher rates of unjustified absences (4.1 per cent compared with the English 2.2 per cent).

According to a survey carried out by the Department of Education and Science and the Welsh Office), on education spending they say: "In many respects Welsh authorities start on a lower base and are below the national average. This year they would spend £8.04 a head in primary and £15.08 in secondary schools, compared with £8.72 and £17.11 to be spent by all authorities in England and Wales."

In Wales 27 per cent of the primary schools were built before 1903 (20 per cent in England). "The teacher-pupil ratios in many Welsh authorities, particularly at secondary school level, fall below those of authorities in England and far below the best." The average for all authorities was 1:16.9 compared to 1:17.3 in Wales.

## READING—without books?



"The reading habit should be established early, and should receive unqualified encouragement from that point onwards."

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(The Bullock Committee)



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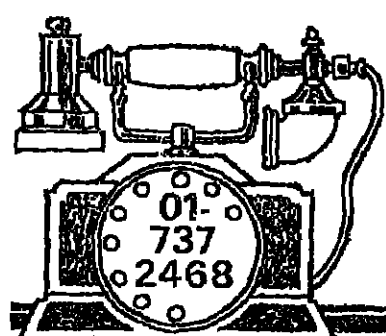
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## Schools Prom

Applications for tickets to attend the next Schools Prom on November 29th and 30th should be made to the Royal Albert Hall, Advance Bookings, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

Successful applicants will be issued with tickets during the month of August. Ticket prices range from 40p to £2.00.

## Heels dug in over redundancies

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education are to fight the education cuts, in a campaign which will concentrate on opposition to compulsory redundancies and systematic over-time. They will try to ensure that levels of both teaching and non-teaching staffs in colleges are maintained.

The campaign will also use the Health and Safety at Work Act as a lever to improve conditions in colleges. Speaking after a long debate with nearly 50 amendments, Mr Tom Driver, the general secretary, said many colleges did not meet the standards required by the new law. But important though this was, it would not prevent cuts in staffing.

Proposing the motion, Miss Mary Moss, of Kilburn Polytechnic, said the campaign would also involve the amalgamation of classes and the closure of minority subjects in colleges. They should also refuse to work extra hours.

In London there had been attempts to get staff to work more

overtime to save money. Kilburn were now operating an overtime ban as a result of which more part-timers were now being employed. Teachers should insist that college establishments were filled, refuse to cover vacancies and protect part-timers, the Achilles heel.

Mr Jack Mansell, former president of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, said it was unrealistic to demand that no posts should remain vacant. The staffing of any department in a further education college depended on the changing nature of the community it served. As industry in an area changed, so did the need for college courses.

In an emergency motion, the conference came out clearly in favour of voluntary pay restraint, provided the Government controlled prices and dividends, sustained investment, and accepted a commitment to maintain the real level of spending on education and the social services.

Supporting the motion, Mr P. C. Knight, of the South West, said

that many workers found it difficult to resist the effects of inflation. If the Government would cut and continue cutting public expenditure, these cuts would fall on the least able to defend themselves.

Mr Francis Cammilleri, for the executive, said that the association needed the support of the TUC in fighting more education cuts and the shortage of jobs for newly qualified teachers. They were likely to get that support if the TUC went to the TUC having rejected their policy.

But Mr T. Corcoran, of the Northern region, said if lowering wages was the answer to inflation, it would be on the platform only for nil per cent. Another speaker said that he did not want to see Labour Party putting capitalism back on its feet at the expense of the old or education. There was a guarantee that private industry would invest the money transferred to it through wage cuts.

## Driver sees fight ahead

NATFHE will find it much harder than other teacher unions to secure the jobs and conditions of service of their members, said Mr Tom Driver, the president, on Sunday.

Further education should be expanding to meet the needs of a scientific and technological revolution. Instead industries, and consequently their demand for college places, were contracting. There was an unwarranted reduction in college education, and changes in the organization of many colleges.

"All these occurring at one and the same time, and in a world of serious constraint on resources, to intensify the problems to an unprecedented degree."

In the next 10 years the developments in education would be in the post-school sector; in education for the 16 to 19s, and in education and training in the widest sense of the term.

## Democracy and a deadline

Other motions passed by the conference were:

● The union executive are to press the Education Secretary for the revision of Circular 7/70 on college governance. This should set up committees to ensure that there was no discrimination in appointments on the grounds of sex, religion, race, family status, race, nationality, creed, political belief or record. All college academic boards should have a majority of elected staff representatives, and at least a quarter of college governing bodies should be elected by the full-time staff as a whole.

● The executive should negotiate with the Council of Local Education Authorities a deadline by which local conditions of service agreements should be in operation. If all authorities no agreement had been reached or negotiations stopped, sanctions were being applied or being considered in several areas including Walsingham Forest, Brent, Birmingham and Walsall, where agreement had not been reached.

He told the conference that the suggestion that teachers should sit on these committees had been opposed, even though the Department of Education and Science had advised that teachers should be fully involved. It was only one example of some local authorities' astounding and disturbing unwillingness to allow teachers' opinions to be heard.

The DES had also made little attempt to use teachers' expertise when formulating policy. The disastrous policy changes over teacher training numbers in the last 15 years were mainly due to the lack of proper consultation.

More notification of decisions and requests for comments are no substitute for genuine consultations. In a society which prides itself on its democratic traditions, participation is right and teachers must see that they have that right recognized.

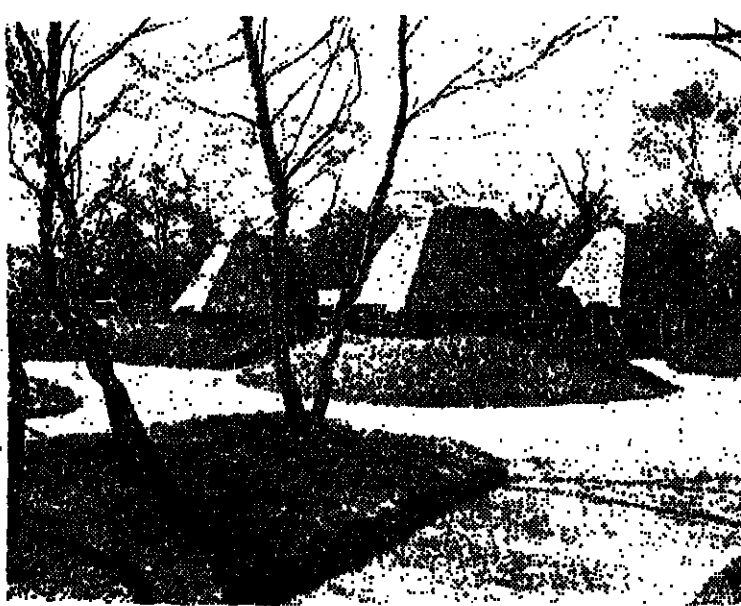
## Putting heart into Robin's oak

David Kilpatrick on things stirring down in Sherwood Forest

Whether or not Robin Hood was Robert Hode and came from Wakefield, or Robin of Loxley and came from Sheffield, or totally fictitious, about 25,000 people each year—many in school parties—come to a small patch of forest and heathland in Nottinghamshire. They come, in the main, because of the legend; the forest is part of Sherwood, and the name justifies the visit as much as the place itself does.

To a student of ecology or forestry Sherwood is interesting in its own right, but the average tourist doesn't appreciate ancient heathlands and broadleaf tree colonies. So a further attraction

Kraut-like huts of the new centre (below) on the way to the Major Oak (above).



focuses interest on a spot about a mile from the village of Edwinstowe—the Major Oak, officially Britain's heaviest living tree. The oak is reached by a one-and-a-half mile round walk through the forest.

This 500 adults and children a week, on average, are drawn to a few square miles of woodland and one large tree. The only hint of a merry men you will find in the area is due to Mansfield Brewery, and even the Robin Hood Society doesn't turn up to re-enact the legend without good cause. The last time the Major Oak saw action, in 1976, was when a group of young people, rather than a group of young people, were seen to be cutting down the tree. The last time the Major Oak saw action, in 1976, was when a group of young people, rather than a group of young people, were seen to be cutting down the tree.

The paradox of Sherwood is that serious conservationists, like the Countryside Commission, value it for exactly the same reason as the Robin Hood tourist—it is a rare medieval survival. The whole royal forest used to cover 100,000 acres, set aside for Norman hunting mounds; today only 30,000 acres remain.

The remainder fell under the plough, and today it is a case of piecemeal restoration. The Forest Commission and natural change have accounted for 29,000 of Sherwood's acres; only 1,000, including the area round the Major Oak—up still as they were in Robin Hood's day.

The new study centre will have a large semi-permanent exhibition. Although Robin will get a brief mention, the sponsorship of the Countryside Commission inevitably means that Nottinghamshire County Council are playing down the legend. The main displays and a 60-year lecture theatre will be devoted to environmental education about the forest itself.

The council hope that people who pass through the centre on their way to the Major Oak will be "educated" by the time they step on to the sand path. The tourist who came to see the oak should, with luck, see the forest instead—its flora and fauna, its history.

## UK recognize parents' right to choose

The rights of parents to choose independent schooling for their children has been formally recognized by the Government's acceptance of International Covenant on Human Rights.

Last month the United Kingdom ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including article 13 (1), which says: "The states parties to the present covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the state and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions."

Announcing this in the Commons, Mr Evan Lloyd, a junior Foreign Minister, said: "The Government see no incompatibility between the purpose and effect of this article and the Government's education policy."

## Briton gets EEC leadership

For the first time a British teacher has been appointed head of one of the six European schools for children. EEC staff, the Department of Education and Science announced on Tuesday.

He is Mr Michael Hart, a member of the government school inspectorate, who will take up his new post as head of the European School in Mol, Belgium, in September.

Mr Hart, who left Keeble College, Oxford, in 1951 with a first in modern history, taught in Sherborne School, Dorset, and Shrewsbury School, Shropshire, before becoming head of Mill Hill School, North London, in 1967. He joined the schools inspectorate in 1974.

## BARGAINS ON THE BACKLIST

All of these books, most of them very recent and all of the first quality, would have to be priced much higher if they were to be published in 1976.

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THE BRITISH SEAMAN

Christopher Lloyd

'Scholarly but lively, an excellent survey of the subject.'

Jasper Ridley, *New Statesman*

'One of the best books ever written about the British naval heritage.' Jan Morris, *Spectator*

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Book Fair and Seminar 1976

London Tara Hotel, Wright Lane, Kensington, W8  
Seminar: July 19, 9.30-4.00. Tickets: £2.50. Lunch: £1.00. Book Fair: July 20, 10.00-5.00. Tickets: £1.00. Book Fair: July 21, 10.00-5.00. Tickets: £1.00.



Last week, the director of the Adult Literacy Resource Agency announced that more than 60,000 adults with reading and writing difficulties were now enrolled on literacy schemes. The BBC, who began their "On the Move" programme in October, have referred more than 20,000 to local authority schemes, and more have come forward locally. Throughout the country, 40,000 volunteer tutors have been recruited. The DES have given the Adult Literacy Resource Agency £1m for a further two years, following their initial grant of £1m.

The number of adults being taught to read and write has grown from 5,000 to 65,000 since the literacy campaign began a year ago. In terms of numbers, then, it is a success.

But, as those involved in the scheme are quick to point out, the real worth of the campaign must be measured by how much these disadvantaged adults are learning. Quick, tangible achievements are vital to adult illiterates; yet another educational failure could put them off trying to master literacy skills for ever.

And since success depends primarily on the quality of teaching they are getting, a major concern of the campaign organizers is how their volunteer tutors are coping.

Using unpaid, non-professional tutors at all is novel; no other area of publicly financed education employs non-professional teaching staff. It came about because of the literacy campaign started in charitable organizations particularly the British Association of Settlements.

Alan Wells, literacy adviser of the British Association of Settlements, says: "The decision to use volunteers came about accidentally. Cambridge House (a charitable settlement) was the oldest literacy scheme and used non-teachers. But it happened partly because we couldn't do it any other way."

There is certainly reason to believe that a scheme involving paid teachers would never have got the necessary financial support. Even so, some local authority organizers feel very strongly that the conventional wisdom about using volunteer tutors was never seriously challenged or properly discussed before the national campaign was started.



Sheffield use only trained tutors: pictures above and below by David Kilpatrick.

Frances Hill reports on arguments for and against using voluntary tutors in the adult literacy campaign

## Keen, but can they teach....?

the national campaign was started.

Certain difficulties arise through relying on volunteers in a nationwide educational venture. The most obvious and pressing are those of supply and continuity of teaching staff; volunteers may not be available as needed and may drop out before they are experienced enough to be useful.

So far there has been no shortage of volunteers, and in many areas the flood of applicants has been almost an embarrassment. But there are real fears that, as the novelty of the literacy scheme wears off, volunteers will become scarcer; in some authorities there are signs that this is happening already.

There is, perhaps, something attractive about being part of a campaign, says Jenny Stevens, further education officer at the BBC working on the adult literacy project. But a campaign that has been going on for some time may start to lose its appeal. The drop-out rate among volunteers is high, replace-

ments are constantly needed, and in some areas there is a danger of not getting enough to meet student demand.

Even now, the distribution of people coming forward is uneven. In London, it is difficult to get tutors in Croydon but in Hounslow there is an abundance, according to Jenny Stevens.

Since most tutors are reasonably well-educated and well-off, while most students are manual workers, middle-class neighbourhoods tend to abound in volunteers but lack students, while the reverse is often the case in working-class areas.

Partly because of this imbalance tutors may have to travel long distances, especially in country areas, where populations are widely spread.

Most authorities do not pay expenses, so tutors often find themselves giving their money as well as their time to the cause. Nor is travelling the only expense. Tutors may often feel a need to buy extra books and materials. A new tutor in London complained that at her training session "the first thing they did was to sell me two resource packs."

The cost of being a volunteer tutor possibly contributes to the high drop-out rate. Possibly, too, it strengthens the tendency for tutors to come from a fairly narrow social category.

Some literacy scheme organizers feel very strongly that tutors should not only get expenses but should also be given a salary. This would ensure a more reliable supply of tutors and a lower turnover.

Few in the literacy campaign would argue strongly that payment to tutors is undesirable but many would suggest that it is not practical. Bedfordshire paid its tutors until September, 1975, but then decided it could no longer afford it.

"To pay volunteers is the road to bankruptcy," says Alan Wells. "If you have 100 tutors at £2 a week, that's £200 a week. For some urban authorities with more than 1,000 students, many of whom have their own individual tutor, the salary bill for tutors would be staggering."

He believes the money available should be spent on improving training and support services. Volunteer tutors are as good as the support they are given; but training and support vary enormously. At present training sessions of an hour or two each, but variations are considerable.

Some experts feel the adequacy of 10 hours training has yet to be proved, and most would agree that brief training sessions cannot possibly be satisfactory without good support from professionals for many months, or years, afterwards. But variations in local authority support are even more marked than for training.

Some authorities have taken on enough supervisory staff who are available for extra training, advice and assessment. Others employ only an adult education officer, who doubles as the organizer of the local literacy scheme. Most areas fall between two extremes but, generally speaking, supervisors are in short supply and are often extremely hard-pressed.

Alan Wells points out that organizing a literacy scheme is a "vast administrative job". Supervisors who work as administrators, interviewers and assessors, have little time to help tutors with their teaching difficulties, suggest and explain new approaches and try to lessen all-too-frequent feelings of isolation.

Uncertainty about methods, a general lack of confidence and feelings of loneliness are among tutors' main difficulties. "I still feel very unconfident about the whole thing," said one new tutor though she was relieved to have been assigned to a class with another volunteer teacher, rather than having to teach, "and perhaps fail", by herself.

A more experienced tutor said she was afraid to ask for help from a supervisor, even though her student was making extremely slow progress. She felt the supervisor's time was limited and other tutors' difficulties seemed more severe than her own.

"I didn't know to what extent I ought to go ahead with reading and writing together, or how much one might try to improve his speaking. You really do need expert help, but I was always frightened of asking for it. You are working in a vacuum. If you could phone an expert once a week, that would help enormously."

She was also unsure that her student would ever learn to write, but over much help he was given. With proper support, a tutor all too often has unrealistic expectations of her student and may continue tuition after it has ceased to be useful.

Most students are extremely highly motivated, but some need to be pushed to keep making the effort to learn. If tutors themselves feel unsure of their abilities and of the likelihood of success, both may become discouraged and give up the struggle.

With individual tuition, too, personal conflicts, or too close a relationship, can cause difficulties. Most authorities try to pair tutors and students carefully, but opportunities for pairing on the basis of personal

compatibility are limited. Some tutors find it difficult to teach a student who is not motivated, or who is too shy to speak, or who is too intelligent for the level of the scheme.

Another assumption which is being questioned is that "illiteracy" is an easily defined and well understood concept and that the users of literacy are self-evident.

The value of non-professional tutors can perhaps only be finally judged when research has shown more clearly what "illiteracy" really means, what it is for and what training and skills are needed to teach it.

In the meantime, it seems likely that the adult literacy scheme will continue on a voluntary basis, and most organizers would agree that it is essential that training and support generally should be brought up to the highest standards. One of the major impediments to the campaign, DES planning for the campaign, is the lack of long-term commitment to the education of disadvantaged adults intended to keep on literacy staff who ever future DES policy may be.

They have long-term plans and know where they're going," says Alan Wells.

He adds: "Many authorities react to central government heads and don't know where they're going. The Government has short-term priorities, just short-term thinking out of precision. No one can say they don't know this year whether there will be more money next year, and the same goes for next year. Local authorities want to be stuck with a lot of long-term staff with contractual obligations which is not all false." Alan Wells would rather see less money but over a longer period.

Norman Sykes feels that the Government's renewal of the literacy agency for two years is completely inadequate. "I should have made a commitment for 10 years."

ability depend on a plentiful supply of volunteers who live near the students. In Lincolnshire and other thinly populated areas, this is impossible.

Many authorities are beginning to favour more groups teaching to overcome some of the volunteers' difficulties. In north-east Essex, many students get individual tuition under the supervision of a professional in classes at educational centres.

Norman Sykes, campaign organizer in Sheffield, which has a long tradition of literacy teaching and continues to employ only paid professional teachers for the job, questions the rationale of voluntary tutoring by the professionals. He says: "The professionals are paid to support but they are better used in paying professional teachers who will not need such support. Some of the authorities' situation of staff organizing the volunteers, he says, is that case, who do not employ the professionals to do the job themselves."

Sheffield began to expand its adult literacy programme in 1970, teaching courses on the diagnosis of reading and writing difficulties, and the relationship between students and tutors. The authority gives a quarter of its adult education budget to the education of disadvantaged adults and has about 600 students in its literacy scheme. All its tutors are trained teachers or have professional training, and have done 20-week diagnostic courses.

"I would never employ who 'teach'," says Mr Sykes. "If you have a literacy problem, it is not a teaching problem, it is a learning problem. It should be solved as quickly as possible. If the teachers are going to be used with an effect at all you have got to train them, equip them, give them support, help through possibly self-destruction situations."

Sheffield has no turnover of literacy teachers and also tends to have a low turnover of students. Sixty teachers are waiting for jobs. Neither does Sheffield have diagnostic teaching units, since paid teachers are unnecessary when teachers can do diagnostic teaching.

Most importantly, Sheffield has no serious doubts about its own ability to teach literacy well. The amount of training and support to teach reading and writing, whether to children or adults, has been under debate for some time. Many educationists have said that reading can be taught by almost anyone who is literate and is equipped with a few simple techniques. This assumption is not being challenged by teachers and researchers.

Donald Mayle, reader in education at Edge Hill College of Education, who is researching into adult literacy, suggests that the use of teachers by teachers who have received little specialist training reinforces the widespread view that the teaching of reading is not particularly difficult. But the very fact that so many children and school unable to read casts doubt on this theory.

A level exams in economics, mathematics and chemistry. They found students who chose popular or familiar style questions were rewarded by being marked more generously than they would have been if they had chosen other questions. "Candidates were able to perceive which questions would be marked relatively leniently and in consequence chose to attempt them rather than others," the report says.

"When candidates are offered a choice of options, it is important that all questions are marked to an equal standard if candidates are not to be penalized or advantaged."

## NUS angry over 'mean' grants rise

by Stephen Cohen

Student grants are to go up by between £105 and £165 a year from September. It was announced last week. Mr Fred Mulley, the Education Secretary, said in a written reply in the Commons that the increases, averaging 18 per cent, would cost about £30m.

Students in London will get £935 (£810 last year), elsewhere the grant will be £875 (£740) and those who live at home will get £675 (£570).

The starting point for parental contributions will be raised from a residual income of £2,200 to £2,700. A family with gross income of about £3,300 or less will not have to contribute anything.

Last year parents were not expected to contribute anything if their residual income was less than £2,200 (about £2,700 gross). Now they will have to pay £20 if the family earns £2,700, after deduction for mortgage, superannuation and other dependent children.

The contributions go up by £20 for every extra £100 of income, until the residual figure is £4,300. The rise is then £10 for every £100.

Minor changes in the system have helped a married student who has moved at home to look after children. This period will count towards establishing independence from parents. If a student can prove that he or she is supporting himself or herself, parents will not have to pay anything.

The National Union of Students attacked the rises for being mean and inadequate.

Mr Charles Clarke, NUS president, said the Government had failed to tackle discretionary awards, many of which were below the mandatory levels.

Almost half our members are in receipt of no awards or of discretionary awards. Nothing has been done for them at all. A further

57 per cent of NUS members will get no benefit from the changes in the parental means test scale as they will not receive the full share from their parents anyway."

Mr Clarke said the Government had forgotten that last September's award was inadequate. Inflation was running at 21 per cent and an 18 per cent rise did not compensate.

The union will meet the Department of Education and Science during the summer to discuss a new structure for student support as part of the triennial review of the grants system.

University vice-chancellors said last week that the rise was a welcome attempt "to stop the grant's present purchasing power falling next year."

Sir Roy Marshall, secretary general of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said there were still difficulties. The aims of the awards policy must be to ensure that grants are made available at realistic levels in relation to the costs which students have to bear.

The vice-chancellors' committee will urge the Government to make full use of the long-term perspective which will be offered by next year's triennial review of grants, to bring this about."

### WHAT PARENTS PAY

| Residual income | Contributions | Old | New   |
|-----------------|---------------|-----|-------|
| £2,700          | £20           | 30  | 40    |
| 3,000           | 100           | 40  | 50    |
| 4,000           | 300           | 290 | 340   |
| 5,000           | 400           | 410 | 460   |
| 6,000           | 500           | 510 | 570   |
| 7,000           | 600           | 610 | 670   |
| 8,000           | 700           | 710 | 810   |
| 9,000           | 800           | 810 | 910   |
| 10,000          | 900           | 910 | 1,010 |

Scale continues at £1 contribution for every £10 of additional income.

## Examiners too hard on those who try difficult questions

Examiners are unfair to candidates who choose more difficult or unusual questions, according to a report from the combined research unit of three GCE examination boards.

The Test Development and Research Unit of the Oxford, Cambridge and Schools' exam boards have just published a comparison of the popularity of questions and their level of difficulty in six O level exams in economics, mathematics and chemistry.

They found students who chose popular or familiar style questions were rewarded by being marked more generously than they would have been if they had chosen other questions. "Candidates were able to perceive which questions would be marked relatively leniently and in consequence chose to attempt them rather than others," the report says.

"When candidates are offered a choice of options, it is important that all questions are marked to an equal standard if candidates are not to be penalized or advantaged."

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## 'Fair and reasonable' - Fowler

by Alan Wood

Stirns and other protests against the student grant package just announced were criticized by Mr Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe, C) and Mr Gerry Fowler, the higher education minister, in the Commons last week.

Mr Clarke was concerned with the revised arrangements designed to prevent students claiming unemployment and supplementary benefits during short vacations. Parents' contribution to maintenance should be abolished as it had become increasingly absurd. He knew this would be costly and impossible at the moment with expenditure constraints.

The student grant announcements made no progress towards removing parental contributions. The minimum grant had been £50 for many years. This meant that those students most dependent on parental contributions would still only get £50 and be more dependent than ever on their parents.

An increasing number of parents refused to pay the contribution. In addition, because contribution levels were fairly low, many parents found it difficult to pay the assessed contribution.

The Supplementary Benefits Commission should be asked to review their arrangements. They should make it clear that genuine students who did not receive the parental contribution were supposed to be receiving without means during the vacations. This would mean they would qualify for benefit.

Even in these difficult times some students would be able to work in the long summer vacation. Without sounding pompous, it was good for them to broaden their experience. But there were appalling levels of unemployment in some areas and it was not easy to find work. These students would get the full rate of supplementary benefit.

Not all students wanted to work

—some wanted to study—but they might find that the disincentive to a job had become greater, particularly for those with more prosperous parents. The full rate of supplementary benefit was almost there for the asking.

The Government's new arrangements encouraged students not to take a job but to draw supplementary benefits. This missed an opportunity to get students out of the social security system when they dealt with them by maintenance grant alone.

The Government had been more concerned with dressing up the unemployment figures, when the answer should have been maintenance grants. The 18 per cent increase contained no change in priorities. He regretted the National Union of Students had refused to discuss priorities.

Students had to share Britain's economic restraint. Mr Clarke condemned the suggestion that there should be strikes and occupations of universities, colleges or administrative blocks after the maintenance award. The public were getting bored with that kind of militant campaign.

Mr Fowler said he shared the long-term aim of abolishing the parental contribution. It would of necessity have to be a very long term aim.

The same argument applied to the suggestion that the maintenance award should cover the whole of the year and so rule out claims for supplementary benefit. This would mean a substantial increase in public expenditure. The major review of student awards came once every three years.

In real terms the 18 per cent award was a fair and reasonable settlement. It would be fair to students to sit-in in protest against the inadequacy of this award. They would have a little more in their pocket in real terms at the beginning of this academic year than at the beginning of last year. Students

could not opt out of the country's economic difficulties. The £50 minimum award was an odd anomaly, which would have to be changed later.

Turning to supplementary benefits, Mr Fowler said it would be drastic to say that students who qualified for unemployment benefit by virtue of their own contributions should not be allowed to draw unemployment benefit because they were students. He appealed again to parents to pay their parental contributions. He supposed the reason why more students had drawn supplementary benefit was due not only to the NUS campaign, but the general increase in unemployment which had led to a dramatic fall in the number of jobs available to students during vacations. There had been a sharp increase in the number of claims.

In Easter, 1972, 16,000 students registered. By Easter, 1975, it had become 95,000 and this year it was 172,000. At Christmas last year the total was 127,000. Most qualified for and claimed supplementary benefit. Only 10 per cent were entitled to unemployment benefit.

Claims on this scale had presented a serious threat to the normal operation of unemployment and supplementary benefit offices. There had been some resentment by some staff and by the public. It was different in the long vacation when students found it easier to get a job for a longer period. In recognition of the difficulties the Education Secretary had announced the new arrangements in February.

In the new package the student maintenance would be paid in slices of 35 per cent, 35 per cent and 30 per cent. In the academic year as a whole to all these matters students would be no worse off under the new arrangements. The whole scheme of changes for supplementary benefit was financially neutral and he would ensure that students were not treated as an underprivileged class.



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A Birmingham canal barge provided an unusual setting for a story telling session. This was one of the many events in "National tell-a-story week" organized by the Federation of Children's Book Groups.

Bob Doe visits a North London school for its literacy conference

## Write and wrong

"A school language policy is not like a periodic purge on smoking in the bogs." This warning was given to teachers last week by Mr W. H. Mann, who is involved in running the "Writing across the curriculum" project at London University Institute of Education.

He was speaking at a special one-day "literacy conference" at Acland Burghley Comprehensive School, North London, which was organized so that all the staff could attend after most of the pupils had been sent home a day early for half term.

Mr Mann complained that there was not enough "expressive writing" in schools, particularly in subjects like history, geography and science and in the upper forms of secondary schools. Most writing was factual, transactional English in which the writer was required to mean what he said instead of expressive writing in which the "self" came through and in which ideas were not necessarily carefully formulated.

The single most important use of writing in schools is as a means of testing, not a means of learning," he complained. "This is an important role for writing but neglects its potential for mental and social development."

According to Acland Burghley's headmaster, Mr Sam Fisher, who is also chairman of the National Union of Teachers' education committee, the conference was not an isolated meeting on the subject and he hoped it would be followed up by inter-departmental groups arising out of the day's discussions.

"Staff are beginning to see that they all use language in their subject and cannot just leave it to the English department. They are starting to see the importance of language as a medium for learning and the means of understanding."

"This was not just the aftermath of the Bullock report. Mr Fisher said he had put forward the need for language across the curriculum 20 years ago at a school where he was head of history. All the English department could do in that about setting out classwork, the need for margins and how to correct spelling mistakes, he said.

The Acland Burghley conference then broke up into eight small discussion groups where the English department handed out just such a list about setting out classwork, including the importance of margins and the way to correct spelling mistakes. One teacher was later to comment: "All would be well if pupils were compelled to write in the margin and leave the rest of the page for us to do the correction."

From the reports presented later in the day a wide variety of issues was raised at these discussion groups, including the need for a Banda machine in the staffroom and general condemnation of hour-long periods, late discipline, lateness, poor attendance and the lack of a national curriculum.

One group leader complained that the English department had "jumped in" with a demand for six periods in the first year to teach basic skills (though the English representative in another group had more modestly asked for four). A set proportion of a subject teacher's time should be devoted to improving communication skills and, they had agreed teachers should be more careful about bad communications.

One teacher disagreed. He considered he was teaching science, not English. "I correct their work but I do not stress the mistakes. As far as I am concerned this is not a matter of choice. I just haven't got time to do anything else." He was looking for their ability to pick out those things that were scientifically important in their writing.

Another group thought pupils should have opportunities in all subjects to express their ideas in their own language. One said: "We may think we are testing the pupils' abilities to understand the content we teach them but in fact we are only testing their ability to reproduce standard English."

There was a tendency at the conference to equate Mr Mann's expressive category with a pupil's normal speech, no matter how inarticulate, "transactional" language was seen as some standard form of English, irrespective of the purpose to which it was being put. This brought disagreement between those who thought expressive language was "an invitation to be sloppy" and those who said pupils' speech was "a dialect, as fluent and capable of logical thought and emotional content as any other."

"There was some argument about whether 'it's all got nothing' was a perfectly clear dialect expression or a double negative and therefore 'wrong'. There was little disagreement with the view that pupils should be made aware of the fact that they spoke a dialect. It should not be mocked but there was a formal use of English which should be used in certain circumstances or they would 'come down with a bump when they came face to face with an employer'."

Fisher said what was important was the ability to deal effectively with the words that give the facts about some particular phenomenon in the most economical and precise way possible. Pupils had to reach this stage from their own level of language by a process of evolution.

## US lesson in how to use factories

Schools should use factories as industrial premises in the past or at weekends rather than put large sums of money on new buildings and equipment. This is one of the main lessons Britain can learn from Californian schools, says G. T. Montford, of the City of Guilds of the London Institute, a report published recently.

Mr Montford studied vocational education in Californian high schools last year. He found that the close working relationship between the schools and local employers benefited the pupils in two ways. It ensured that the curriculum was acceptable to employers and made many of the facilities in industry available to the schools.

British schools should make more use of industrial and commercial buildings, and involve teachers from industry to come in and teach application courses, the report says. They should also open their doors to unqualified further education teachers. To achieve this the Department of Education should harmonize the curriculum of secondary schools with further education teachers.

As a start, local authorities should open their works, offices and depots to school pupils. Teachers should relax some of the restrictions to allow this. Many criticisms of British education could also be applied to California. Too many school leavers, both American and British, lack basic skills in literacy and numeracy; the curriculum is too academic and biased towards the more able; and the public did not know enough say in formulating education policy.

What was needed was a totally new curriculum for those students who would not go on to higher education. There should be a national progression of learning for vocational subjects, which at the moment only existed once a pupil reached a further education college. The development of school vocational courses had been haphazard.

"At present too many students leave school with no skills and no qualifications, and they are then faced with the world of work unprepared in the eyes of many employers and in no way prepared for a career."

The new curriculum should be worked out with further education colleges, industry and the training agencies. It was important that general teachers should have relevant industrial experience, updated regularly.

Mr Montford, who is one of the architects of the City and Guilds new foundation, said that this course will be one of the world's new curriculum. Education with a Purpose - City and Guilds of the London Institute, Education in California. By G. T. Montford, CGLI, 46 Britannia Road, London WC1.

## Irish diary

## Return of an old, old row about language

One of the oldest and most emotive issues in Irish education surfaced again last week with publication of a new report about the teaching of the Irish language in the Republic's 3,500 primary schools.

Although it is mainly concerned with different teaching methods, the report published by the Linguistics Institute, underlines the degree to which the educational system is used in the political struggle to make the language a viable national vernacular.

The report is about fifth and sixth classes in the schools, that is 11-year-olds and 12-year-olds, and reveals that just over a fifth of classroom time is spent teaching Irish at this level. This figure, based on a sample survey of 400 primary schools (none of them in the Irish speaking area of the country), is substantially less than the one published 10 years ago by Dr John Macnamara, an Irish academic psychologist. Dr Macnamara's figures, based on 95 schools, suggested that time devoted to Irish ranged from 39 per cent to 44 per cent. This created a major political storm which has not by any means died down.

If the latest figures indicate a decline in the amount of Irish taught in the schools, they also point to a sharp reduction in the practice of teaching other subjects through Irish. This policy, once fervently advocated by the Department of Education as a key factor in its language revival policy, has now been virtually abandoned. Only four schools in the survey taught all subjects through Irish.

The report is far from conclusive on the question of teaching methods, partly because it measures teachers' attitudes rather than objective standards and because most of the teachers concerned were older and had finished their training well before new audio-visual methods were introduced in 1967.

Although most of them have done familiarization courses since then, their appreciation of the value of the new methods is strongly tempered by the decline in standards of accuracy. In fact, although 70 per cent of the teachers questioned said that they were happy with the new methods, almost half thought there had been a decline in the standard of Irish over the past 10 years.

This is already a major issue in



The report refers, somewhat obliquely, to the substantial problems of urban children who may have literacy problems in their mother tongue of English even without being required to learn what is in effect a foreign language.

It suggests that there should be flexibility of approach to take into account the special needs of such children. This is a problem which has by no means been satisfactorily dealt with, despite the fact that it was first raised no less than 18 years ago by Dr E. F. O'Docherty, professor of psychology at University College, Dublin, and before that by the Irish National Teachers Organization.

The problems of those committed to the revival of Irish through the schools—and more than 90 per cent of the teachers questioned broadly agreed with such policy—were put in a different perspective by developments during the week which drew attention to the more immediate problem of the children actually in the schools, or those leaving school looking for work.

The best available estimate at the moment is that 26,000 of last year's 45,000 school leavers are still unemployed, and a further 55,000 are expected to leave second level education this year, further swelling the unemployment figures.

This is already a major issue in

the by election now being fought in the working-class constituency of Dublin South West, where the two government parties hope to poach a seat from the Opposition.

It was also referred to at a week-end conference of the local government and public services union. One of the delegates, a school attendance officer, reported that three teenage boys had died in Dublin in the past two months from sniffing a mixture of petrol and liquid but polish. The boys, he said, were "chronically unemployed". The union called for a special employment policy for school leavers, possibly to include an early retirement scheme for workers in the public service.

Another educationist, who has addressed himself to the same problem has not received such a good press. Brother Vivian Cassells, a guidance teacher in a major Dublin secondary school and a member of a religious order, drew trade union hostility down upon his head when he suggested that the way to beat the crisis was for married women to stop going out to work.

Trade unionists, women's organizations and others joined forces to argue that his proposal was not only an insult to working women, but could have no practical effect because the number of working wives was so tiny. One critic was unkind enough to point out that members of religious orders like Brother Cassells, unmarried and with no family responsibilities, monopolized some of the best paid jobs in education as school principals.

Just as sombrely, a government task force on child care services and the Irish Association of Social Workers have pointed out that no day care is available for more than half of the 36.9 per cent of children designated as deprived.

Poverty was identified as the chief cause of deprivation for these children, followed closely by emotional and behavioural problems and by bad housing. Only two-thirds of them lived in a home in which both parents were present, and whereas 10.7 per cent of them lived with deserted wives, almost half that number lived with deserted husbands.

John Horgan

### In brief

#### CEE vote

It was reported in the TES (May 21) that the representative of the Confederation of British Industry voted with Lord Alexander against the CEE proposals. Mr C. J. Science should harmonize the curriculum of secondary schools with further education teachers.

Mr Ernest Taylor, of the Free Church Federal Council, has asked us to point out that, while he voted for the introduction of CEE, he spoke and voted against the amendment to extend its target range.

#### Popular press

According to a report in the Richmond and Twickenham Times the Times Educational Supplement is not put out with other magazines and periodicals in the reference department of Twickenham public library because, according to an assistant, "it is always being stolen by teachers".

#### New home for House

Michael House School, a private school linked to the Waldorf School scheme, which is based on Steiner teaching theories, has bought new premises in Shipley on the edge of the Yorkshire national park. The school hopes to double its number of pupils and extend its range after moving from its present site at Ekeston in the autumn.

#### Dyslexia course

The Polytechnic of Central London is running a three-week course for teachers on dyslexia and specific reading disability from July 26 to August 13. It will be directed by Mr Roy Hornsby of Guy's Hospital dyslexia clinic and Ms Cattie Moorhouse, director of literacy, Inner London Education Authority. Details from Education Authority, 35 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS.

### Religion and society

The Journal *Theoria to Theory* is offering £50 prize for the best article of not more than 2,000 words on "How (if at all) should religion be taught in a pluralistic society where there are people of many faiths?" The Journal is published by Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, 41/42 William IV Street London WC2.

#### International prize

Stephen Volk, a Lanchester Polytechnic student, won second prize of £150 in an international film contest for young people sponsored by the BBC and Unesco. The contest was for an animated film on the human habitat.

#### Links overseas

The DES have published a new edition of their information booklet listing organizations with links overseas which may be of use to teachers and young people. Copies of *International understanding*, sources of information on organizations is available free from the DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

#### 2,000 more places

New Avon County Council secondary schools at Weston-super-Mare, Pill and Hanham, and a major extension at Marlwood School, Avon, will provide 2,000 places at a cost of £2,800,000. Fuel bills will be 20 per cent lower than in conventional schools because of the window and roof designs and the building materials used.

#### Down Lambeth way

Morley College, the adult education college near the South Bank, London, is moving its sculpture classes into a new studio, the Mission Church, previously known as the Palmar Hall, in the Lambeth Walk. The hall will be renamed "The Henry Moore Sculpture Studio", in honour of Henry Moore, the sculptor, who helped with its purchase.

### People



Mrs Anna Grieves, GLC member for Lambeth Central and last year's vice-chairman of the Inner London Education Authority, is to be chairman of the authority. Mrs Lella Campbell, member for Camden, will be the vice-chairman.

#### Colleges

Mr John Ballard, vice-principal of Sevil Tertiary College, Somerset, to be principal of the new tertiary college at Richmond upon Thames, Surrey.

Mr Douglas Millbank, deputy principal of Southlands College, to be principal of the college in succession to Mrs Pauline Callard who is retiring.

#### Universities

Dr Gilbert Kelling, reader in geology, University College of Swansea, to be chair of geology, Keele University.

Mr Carl Lewis, reader in the department of Welsh, University College, Cardiff, to a personal chair at the college.

Dr W. W. Potter, senior lecturer in pathology, Sheffield University, to the Sir George Martin chair of virology at the university.

# COURSES

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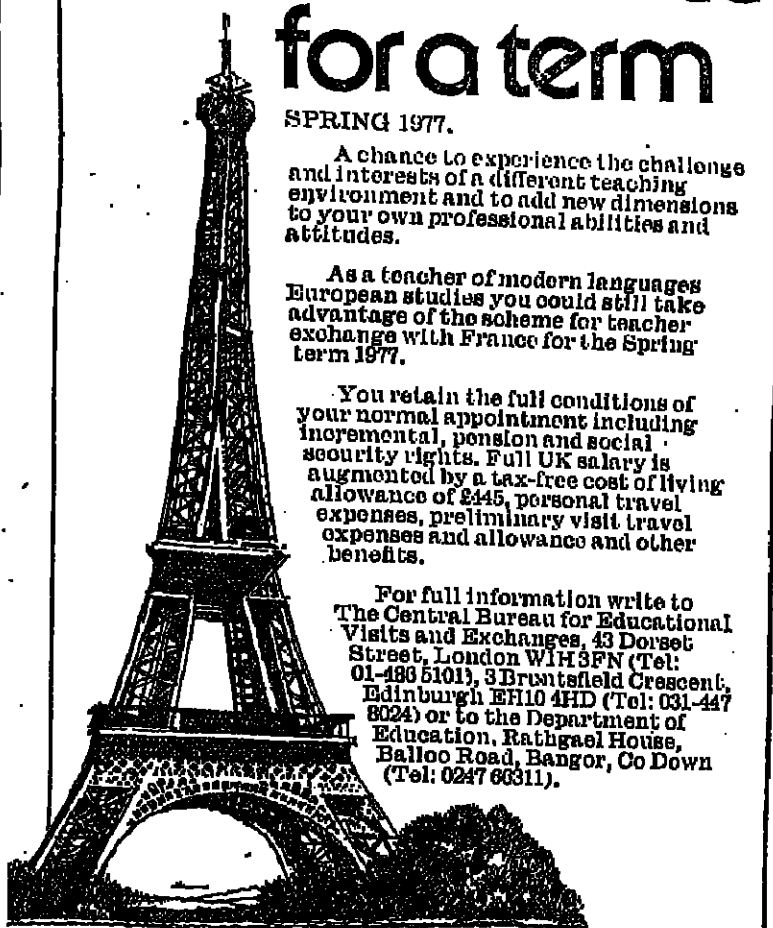
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## JOBS...JOBS...JOBS...

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THE TIMES  
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT



Denmark's pupils and their parents are to have a real say in the running of the country's new comprehensive system. Mike Duckenfield, Scandinavia correspondent, reports from Copenhagen

## Streaming and exams will be left up to the consumer

Parents and pupils are to be given the freedom to choose whether or not they want streaming and examinations in the newly-reformed comprehensive school system which comes into operation at the beginning of the next school year.

The two freedoms, which result from political compromises made necessary to gain majority support for last autumn's reform Bill, add to parents' existing ability to choose whether their children attend state or private schooling (or even receive tuition at home) and whether pupils leave school anything up to two years before the normal leaving age of 16.

The decision on streaming will be left up to local school boards made up of parents and a representative of the local authority. Those in favour will be able to divide classes into general and extended study levels for a limited range of subjects taken by pupils in the eighth, ninth and tenth years (14 to 17 year olds).

Though few, the affected subjects are academically the most important—maths, English, German and physics-chemistry. However, German is optional in all years as are maths and the science combination in the tenth year. In practice, this means that streaming in compulsory subjects will only be possible for three years of English, two of maths and one of physics-chemistry.

Examinations, too, will be restricted with the decision on whether or not to sit them resting with pupils after consultation with parents and teachers.

At the end of the ninth year pupils will be able to take leaving exams set by the Education Ministry in Danish, maths, English, German and physics-chemistry. Those leaving a year later will be able to take either the ninth year exams or "extended" ones in the same subjects.

In addition, pupils opting for French, Latin, domestic science and typing will be able to take final course exams from the end of the eighth year. Those leaving earlier, or at the end of the seventh year or during the eighth, will only receive leaving certificates stating what they have studied.

Both exams and streaming were at the centre of the debate over the reforms. First proposed in 1972 by the then Education Minister, Mr Knud Heinesen, streaming was to have been modified and exams virtually abolished.

However, his successor in the 1974 Liberal Government, Ms Tove Nielsen, introduced her own plan, retaining streaming and exams as well as strengthening tuition of "the three Rs" and Danish.

To finally secure passage of the reform, the present minister in the minority Social Democrat Government, Mrs Ritt Bjerregard, decided to adopt the Liberal Bill adding her own amendments. As a result the reform, the first of its kind since 1958, received a large parliamentary majority.

The aim of the new school (*folkeskole*), which will comprise an optional nursery class for six-year-olds, nine years of basic schooling and an optional tenth year, emphasizes the development of "independent evaluation" preparing for decision-making in a democratic society and co-responsibility in solving common problems.

Tuition will be based on common compulsory instruction in the same subjects during the first six years with two kinds of options made available in later years—those

which local authorities must offer, such as German, and those they can choose to offer. Options include history, geography and biology which are currently compulsory.

For younger pupils there will be no main curriculum changes, although seven and eight-year-olds will receive an average of one and a half periods more of Danish a week. Apart from the usual subjects pupils will receive tuition in traffic, health and sex matters, foreign religions and educational and vocational guidance.

Nursery classes, as at present, will concentrate on play activities and getting to know the daily rou-



Mrs Bjerregard: compromise.

tines of school life. Currently about 43,000 pupils attend these classes, roughly 60 per cent of the age group.

It is expected that this proportion will not change greatly due to the presence of other kindergartens. In principle, however, all parents wanting to place children in the *folkeskole* nursery classes will be able to request it. If demand outruns supply the oldest children will be given priority.

Nursery classes will have an upper age limit of 22 pupils compared with 28 for the rest of the school. Class hours will also be fewer, increasing gradually from three teaching hours (45 minutes) day for six-year-olds to between 15 and 20 hours a week for seven and eight-year-olds and between 24 and 30 hours for those in their sixth year or above.

Links between school and working life are also emphasized in the reform and study and vocational guidance will be one of the tasks for the period a week set aside for class meetings. In addition, pupils in the eighth and ninth years will not have one or two chances to spend two weeks in industry or office.

While consensus has been achieved over the reform one politically sensitive issue still remains—the question of entry to upper secondary education. Instead of the present entry tests, the Government would like to see access for all pupils who have taken general, extended or unstreamed courses in English, maths, physics-chemistry and German. The opposition parties, however, mainly favour selection to "excellence" achieved by excluding those who have only taken general courses.

## Back to normal at Roskilde Centre

Roskilde University Centre was back to normal last week with students, including the 203 who had been expelled, working to complete

project work prior to next month's examinations. Last month the Danish Parliament voted for the continuation of the controversial centre (72S, May 14).

Australia

## Canberra gets set for big cutbacks

SYDNEY

from John Kirkaldy

The Federal Government has kept its promise to maintain expenditure on the school system but there will be very little room for any expansion in the future. This became clear in the economic package introduced by Mr Philip Lynch, the Treasurer, last month, and amplified later by Senator John Carrick, Minister for Education.

Schools will receive A\$510m for the year starting January 1977, a rise of 2 per cent in terms of growth expressed in December 1975 figures. This economic guideline will now be considered by the Schools Commission which is to report to the Government in July or August of this year. The Government has indicated that

A\$373m should be spent on recurrent expenditure and A\$135m on capital expenditure.

Senator Carrick also said that the Government is to place a ceiling on the number of trainee teachers. There would also be a close scrutiny of applications for increased expenditure on teacher education programmes.

These figures are part of a plan to cut the budget deficit for next year by A\$2,500m, to reduce Australia's inflation rate of 17 per cent a year. The Government hopes to achieve savings of A\$80m over the next year in education but has not yet indicated where the economies are to be made.

The main thrust of educational expansion will be in the area of technical and advanced colleges, which have received 5 per cent and 7.5 per cent increases. Universities, like schools with an increase of 2 per cent, have done less well in the allocation of funds.

The Government's reaction to the Schools Commission report will determine the outline of school education in the next three years. Intense lobbying in the next few months can be expected in Canberra.

Despite the inevitable unpopularity of these figures in many educational circles, education has escaped relatively lightly, compared to cuts in environment and housing of A\$400m and post and telecommunications of A\$250m.

West Germany

## Vocational training Bill is finally killed off

by David Dungworth

With their majority in the Upper House (*Bundesrat*) the CDU/CSU Opposition has blocked the Federal Government's controversial Bill to reform vocational education. There is now no possibility of it becoming law before the general election on October 3.

Throughout the two-and-a-half years which have elapsed since the Government's intentions were first published, the CDU/CSU has consistently opposed them on the grounds that they would mean a State take-over of industry's traditional functions of training apprentices and granting trade qualifications.

In recent months, however, the debate has been concerned mainly with various models for financing the reform plans.

In place of the Government's scheme for a levy on all but the smallest business undertakings, which would be used to subsidize those firms which train apprentices (72S April 30) the Opposition put forward an alternative based on tax concessions.

Formulated only a few weeks ago because of internal Party differences, the final version advocates a rebate to firms of DM 2,000 (about £425) for each existing training place and a taxable Government training grant of DM 6,000 for each new apprenticeship which they provide.

Both the Opposition and the Government Coalition maintain that their proposal is the only one which will achieve the underlying aim of the much-needed reforms: to ensure an adequate supply of training places for the increasing numbers

of school-leavers who will be coming on to the job market in the next five years.

The normal procedure when a Bill has been rejected by the *Bundesrat*, after having been passed by the Lower House, is for it to be referred to the Mediation Committee of both Houses, which then attempts to work out an acceptable compromise.

In the present case the possibility of agreement seems so remote that the Government has shown no inclination to invoke the mediation mechanism and the CDU/CSU has flatly refused to do so.

During the debate in the *Bundesrat*, Herr Helmut Rohde, Federal Minister for Education and Science, warned the Opposition not to underestimate the Government's determination to get the essential features of the proposed legislation on to the statute book.

His latest move is an attempt to bypass the *Bundesrat* altogether by rewriting the Bill. The SPD/FDP Coalition feels that if its proposals for an apprentice training levy are separated from the procedural aspects of the Bill, the former will no longer be subject to the approval of the *Bundesrat*.

The new draft could still be submitted to the Lower House (*Bundestag*) in time for its financial provisions to become law during the life of the present Parliament. Any objection by the Upper House could be overridden by a simple majority of the *Bundestag*, though this might well necessitate the recall of MPs during the summer recess.

France

## Newspapers 'should be used in classrooms'

from William Farr

Teachers should be encouraged to use the Press as a teaching aid. Newspaper articles should be used in the classroom as sources of documentation and as bases for discussion of current events. Children should be accustomed by their teachers to read newspapers and to develop critical appreciation of the material in them.

This policy statement was addressed by René Haby, Minister of Education, to the Association of Editors of Provincial Dailies, who were meeting to discuss "the newspaper and education".

The statement made news in a country where traditionally newspapers are barred from the classroom for fear that they will introduce politics and "pervert" youth. Asked whether teachers would be able to make use of any and all newspapers, Mr Haby replied that it would be for the teachers to make their own choice taking into account the character of the different newspapers.

United States

## Supreme Court to rule on corporal punishment

from Michael Binyon

For the first time ever the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge to the use of corporal punishment in schools. The case involves two pupils who were "paddled" in a Florida elementary school.

"Paddling"—minor corporal punishment—is fairly common in American schools, and was judged perfectly legal by a court of appeal last February.

The points raised by lawyers for the two Florida children is whether "severe" corporal punishment requires due process—such as prior notification of the parents—and whether "severe" corporal punishment constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment", in which case it would be unconstitutional.

The lawyer for the local school board in Florida maintains that spanking is reasonably related to a school's legitimate educational interest in maintaining order, and is neither cruel nor unusual. "Freedom to go to school free of physical discomfort" is not a right protected by the Constitution, he says in his brief.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the Florida case later in the year.

Algeria

## Private sector to be abolished

Private schools are to be abolished on the beginning of the new school year. The Government decision is based on the principle that there must be equality in conditions of access to education and that the education itself must be free for all at all levels.

About 40,000 children go to schools run by the Catholic Church, which controls almost all the private sector. Teaching is given by 200 nuns and 65 priests of French origin, most of them of Algerian nationality. There are also some lay teachers from Algeria and other Arabic-speaking countries.

All the teachers who so wish will be integrated into the new national system. The religious authorities will receive compensation for the buildings and equipment taken over by the State.

Under a wide-ranging educational reform, which the Government is aiming to complete by 1985 all children will attend one "basic school" for nine years, divided into three three-year cycles. In the first cycle elementary subjects such as reading, writing and arithmetic will be taught in the national language. In the second cycle other subjects will be introduced and French will be taught to all. The physical and natural sciences and the social sciences will form the core of the last and orientation cycle.

In 1974/75 the present separate primary and secondary schools were attended by 2,600,000 children, just over 70 per cent of the potential school population.



Aim is equality of access.

Sweden

## In-service emphasis for all levels

Swedish teachers, school inspectors and other school personnel will have the choice of more than 200 in-service courses to attend this summer according to the prospectus of the National Board of Education.

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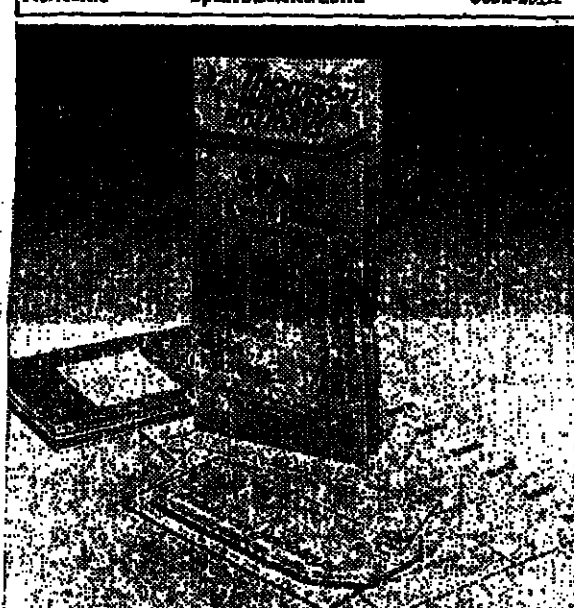
### Where do you go from here?

Apart from Spain there's still Greece, Corfu and Crete from last year's wildly successful programme, and now Yugoslavia, Italy, Sicily, Austria and Switzerland as well.

And while with no accommodation to book, only a plane seat, there's always a good chance of a last-minute reservation, seats are by no



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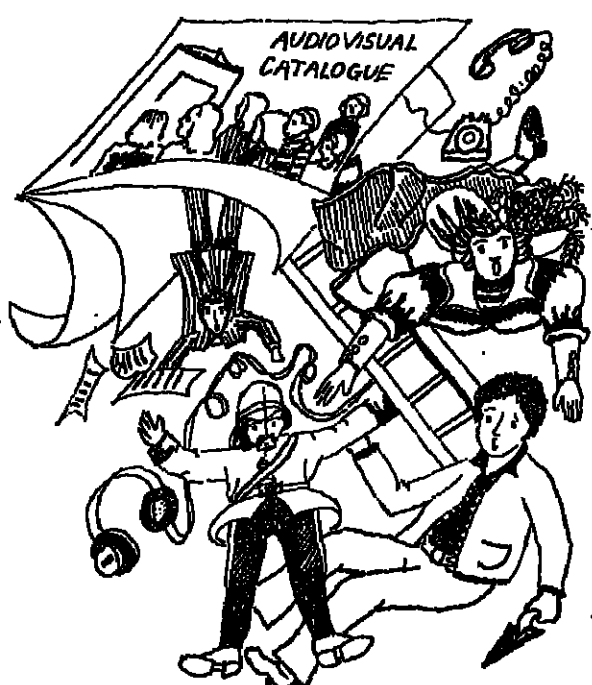


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## LETTERS

### Integration a cautious step forward

Sir—I read with interest Diane Spencer's article, "Cautious response to integrating handicapped" (May 14).

I am employed by an organization actively concerned with the social integration of the physically handicapped with the able bodied. I was disturbed to read that only seven out of 350 organizations thought that the handicapped should be integrated into non-special education.

I agree that one has to be cautious, because integration is not always practical when there are psychological, physiological and environmental difficulties not easily overcome in the normal school. Equally important is the fact that for many in special education integration would be positive and meaningful. In advocating special schools we imply that perhaps we should segregate all members of

society and have schools for ethnic groups, single sex schools, etc.

If we are to encourage handicapped people to play their maximum role we must make sure that any education given is best for their requirements. At present we label the handicapped as different. Parents face barriers if they wish their child to go to a local school, rather than the special school which may be some miles away from the community in which they live and of which they should be a part.

It is also true that some handicapped children fail in normal schools, but before any statements can be made that all handicapped children fail in normal education, research must be done to find out why it may have nothing to do with the child's academic attainment but rather that the school has not been designed with their needs in mind.

We should look at the needs of the particular child, rather than accept that "they must be educated in the special school because they are handicapped".

It will be said if the Warnock Committee base their recommendations on the very vocal majority, Britain has been educationally progressive. Encouraging integration of the handicapped it will continue to be so.

I feel that many handicapped children do not under-achieve because they are under-achievers, but because this is the expectation for them, and people tend to fit the role they are given. If one wants to see how successful the handicapped can be in education, Open University figures show that the handicapped can and do hold their own in further education.

KAREN NEWBURY,  
School and college liaison officer,  
National Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied.

### What Manchester does today...

Sir—Readers of *Break* (May 14) might be forgiven for thinking that all innovation in PGCE teacher education is confined to Oxford, particularly in the light of the claim that "this is the first serious attempt anywhere to make students really professional".

A number of institutions, including North East London and Manchester Polytechnics, operate on varied teaching hospital models, while we at Didsbury are now completing the first year of a scheme in which school-based work is concurrent with college studies. Our CNA-validated course covers primary, and a range of secondary age-range subjects.

Response from schools has been magnificent, and teachers have gone out of their way to involve students in all aspects of curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Justice cannot be done here to the features of Didsbury's course, nor to those of other innovative courses elsewhere. The Oxford department may be in the first division now, but there is a number of good sides around nowadays...

IAN SHELTON,  
PGCE course leader,  
Didsbury College of Education.

### Keeping up with the exam plans

Sir—We are rapidly reaching the stage where the ability to understand the exam system itself will be a good enough test of intelligence. CSE, O, CEE, A, N, F...

A grade three in one exam is equal to a pass at the other or not? As the increasingly harassed head of a sixth form, it seems clear that what pupils, parents, employers and institutions of higher and further education want is that the pupil should be able to complete his education at 16, 17 or 18 with a certificate which is a clear indication of his level of attainment.

Leaving aside such thorny questions as the feasibility of a common exam for a whole age-group, there is clearly a yawning gap in our present provision which, judging from the recent discussions, seems likely to remain. There is no exam which tests the ability pupils at 16 have. The proposed N and F exams will be taken together after two years study; CEE is only to be for those in the ability range 2-4 at CSE.

Many pupils do not want to commit themselves to two years work at 16. Many employers are forced to demand A level qualifications they do not require. The evidence of the use to which the CEE schemes are being put points to a demand; are there really cogent reasons why the demand cannot be supplied?

Gwyneth Klappholz,  
Sixth Form head,  
Finchley Manor School,  
Summers Lane,  
London N12.



Tom Johnston

### Beware of big business

Sir—I write to support Mr Bower's letter on the infiltration of schools by big business. This is no new development but should, I suggest, be aired regularly both to remind experienced teachers and warn the newcomers.

We should not be ungrateful for the many teaching resources made available by industry. They are supplied generously and have been used and valued by thousands of teachers with too little time and money to acquire such teaching aids in any other way. This should not dull our awareness that the motivation behind this generosity is self-interest—the chance to reach a new generation with commercial names and ethics so that these are absorbed as part of education. If the teacher shows a film of crops being sprayed with a film of crop-destroying insects, then 67 varieties of insecticide, then this must be the proper way to farm. The message is implicit and if the bell goes before there is time for discussion, the audience departs "educated".

Two examples may illustrate the argument. There is, or was, no years ago when I used it, a film by a world famous aluminium company showing the process of bauxite extraction in the West Indies. As an A level aid in industrial geography it was a model of clarity. The message that came over equally clearly was that the company was taking the trouble to do the best interests of the local inhabitants. They were shown as delighted to be removed from their ancient villages and resettled in a new area in antiseptic rows of prefabs while their fields and plantations were gutted.

The second was a poster I saw recently in a domestic science classroom. It was one of a series issued by a national baby-food manufacturer—large, colourful and informative. The poster "Feeding Time" portrayed a smiling mother, baby and a bottle. Is any further comment required? DAWN WALKER,  
Haverstock,  
Higher Slade,  
Ilfracombe.

### Provincial music and the London performers

Sir—In his article "A Familiar Chord" Robin Maconie questions the role of music festivals, with their "boorish and foolish" organizers as being a large contributory factor to the paucity of provincial music.

He attributes to these festivals not only a detrimental effect upon regional music, but the under-employment of local musicians by organizers who are dazzled by London personalities. He also adds a paragraph on the Arts Council's attitude to contemporary music, pointing out that such music is invariably most efficiently presented by the BBC on records.

Unfortunately it is difficult to see what kind of policy Mr Maconie is advocating. Does he subscribe to Stockhausen's philosophy on live programmes for traditional music and electronically transmitted media solely for electronic music? Has he examined concert-goers' motivation in the light of excellent broadcast and recording compared to audiences

### Errors and omissions

Sir—Errors and omissions on all sides appear to hamper the discussion of formal/informal education. Ironically, just as I and others have fallen victim of the printing errors in *Teaching Styles and Pupil Progress*, so Bennett and Entwistle have, unwittingly, encountered the same difficulties with my research (May 7).

They imply (May 21) that my evidence on reading progress for low infants is consistent with theirs for an older age-group. I was anxious not to give this impression.

First, because the results were much smaller over two terms of instruction than over their three terms (only about one month of reading age). Second, because they were not statistically significant in either year. I am at a loss to see how non-significant results can become significant merely by extending the length of the study. And third, because they disappeared completely when important factors, such as teacher experience, were taken into account.

This point was made in the *Times Educational Supplement* (June 1), but, unfortunately, in the English edition.

JOHN GRAY,  
Research Fellow,  
Centre for Educational Sociology,  
Edinburgh University.

### Putting French into practice

Sir—Dr Pettit's observations on teaching French at the meeting of the National Council for Educational Standards (May 21) were not so much "impressionistic" as surrealistic.

It seems to me we should be encouraged if students are being attracted away from the traditional literature-based courses at the university level to the practical and nationally useful courses at the polytechnics, which offer, for example, French with business studies.

If the cycle of school-university-school is being broken by linguists discovering other applications for their talents, it is good for the country, and it certainly enhances the language teacher's sense of purpose. (Of course this may eventually offset the supply problem.) Schools have had to compete with industry and commerce for mathematicians and physicists, now they have to do so for linguists.

Dr Pettit is also reported to have bemoaned the increase of a mere 13 per cent in O level passes (and 58 per cent in A level passes) since 1962, "despite the massive increase in CSE French". He overlooks the fact that this increase has taken place largely to cater for the pupils of average and below average ability now learning French in comprehensive schools, and that CSE is designed so that a pupil of average ability can get a grade three.

By definition, pupils of average ability will not generally achieve above average results. If they did we would have real cause for concern about our measures of academic standards. A. J. BAXTER,  
Head of French,  
Dunsmore School for Boys,  
Rugby.

### Hard evidence is what we want

Sir—Yet another subjective report of falling standards appeared recently ("Better maths 50 years ago", May 14). Since this is evidently a topic of great public interest and concern, it is curious that English researchers neglect an opportunity to obtain relevant data.

I refer to the second IEA mathematics study, scheduled for 1977. In the first study, which took place in 1961, mathematics and arithmetic tests were given to nationally representative samples of 13-year-olds and sixth-form pupils in 12 countries. The main purpose of the new study is to examine changes in mathematics education. Since it is intended to give the same tests to similar groups of pupils a direct comparison of attainment will be possible.

Of course some new topics have appeared in mathematics syllabuses since 1964, but others have dropped out. New test items will be included to cover the new topics and lower performance is expected on topics no longer taught in schools. But in certain basic skills, particularly mathematical skills, a direct comparison over a 15-year period is both meaningful and important.

The debate on educational standards has suffered from too much speculation and personal hunches, and a lack of hard evidence. Here is an opportunity to collect the necessary data for a detailed study of mathematics standards. About a

### RE: the Agreed Syllabus and church schools

Sir—Terence Copley's letter (May 21) deplores "confrontations with the 1944 Act", claiming that they only "hinder" the progress that is their aim. However, until the religious clauses of the Act are amended or repealed, any progressive departure from them can be decisively "hindered" by reactionary opponents invoking the law.

Under the heading "Leas buses", you report (in the same issue) the publication of the pamphlet *What Future for the Agreed Syllabus?* put out by a working party of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. This report also plays down the need to amend the Act, though this would obviously be a necessary preliminary to implementing the recommendation that "Agreed Syllabuses to protect sectional interests should be abolished".

While wholeheartedly applauding this recommendation, the National Secular Society deplores the report's tacit acquiescence in the existing statutory compulsion on state schools to provide religious teaching—alone of all school subjects. We have consistently stood for repeal of the religious clauses of the 1944 Act.

In any other controversial area,

it is generally assumed that the differing views of the various teachers with whom a child comes into contact during school will roughly balance one another out. This does not happen in RE, the teachers of which are almost entirely pre-selected for a commitment to Christianity, in spite of the decrease of committed Christians to a small minority.

In primary schools, RE is mostly in the hands of teachers who are at least nominally Christian or prepared to be hypocritical, since the agreed syllabuses can not honestly be taught by anyone of another faith or no faith at all. Implementation of the report's recommendation to make educational rather than ecclesiastical committees responsible for drawing up the syllabuses might remedy this, given time.

In the secondary school, however, teachers who have chosen religion as a speciality are naturally unlikely to be non-Christian. Many of them combine a missionary spirit with vested career interest. To expect these teachers, under the wider provisions of the report's recommendations, suddenly to teach their pupils about "religious and other life-issues" without undue bias in favour of Christianity is wishful thinking.

Moreover, comments already made on the report by less liberal Christians than those in the Religious Education Council indicate

that it is not going to be accepted as the compromise document it is, negotiation and whittling down. So even the limited reforms it recommends are unlikely to be implemented. When a new-style agreed syllabus, very much on the lines of what is called for in the REC report, was put forward two years ago in Birmingham, it was successfully challenged in a court of law.

There is obviously no alternative, therefore, to what Mr Copley describes as "confrontations with the 1944 Act". And the NSS will continue to campaign against it.

BARBARA SMOKER,  
President, The National Secular Society.

Sir—Nicolas Walter's attack on church schools (May 7) is low on rational argument but high on misrepresentation, distortion and unfounded assertion.

Mr Walter implies that the churches get their schools on the cheap. This is not so. The percentage to be found, even though considerably reduced in recent years, still imposes a heavy financial burden on the Roman Catholic Church. The money has to come from church members who have already paid rates and taxes for education and who are generally not well off.

That successive governments have failed to remove the voluntary aided status implies that the churches consider their schools edu-

cationally important, and are willing to exert influence to retain them. The charge that they have no educational justification depends on Mr Walter's educational criteria, which might be acceptable to him but not to others.

I fail to see what Mr Walter means by saying voluntary aided schools have no administrative justification. Does he mean that it makes the system unhelpful to have a group within the group? I was not aware that administrative tidiness was an educational criterion.

Mr Walter outlines the historical origin of the dual system and later asserts that church schools are an anachronistic anomaly, without any arguments. But an old-established situation is not necessarily anachronistic. And are all anomalies essentially wrong?

Finally, what proof has Mr Walter that voluntary aided church schools are socially divisive snarks more of emotional than rational argument. Or perhaps he holds this and his other charges to be self-evident truths. CHARLES CORDER,  
12 Catness Road, London, W14.

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## Sport

## Gymnasts vie for chance to train with Russians

by Stanley Levenson

Spurred on by the example of Susan Cheesbrough, 20, of the best schools gymnasts will display their talents at the Crystal Palace on Sunday. Their aim is to win one of the two Daily Mirror scholarships for a month's special training in Moscow in August.

Miss Cheesbrough, of New London School, near Preston, came from nowhere to win the 1975 girls' scholarship and improved so much that she became a senior international. Now, at the age of 17, she is one of only three British girls to qualify for next month's Olympic Games in Montreal.

Karen Robb, of Colne Valley High School, Huddersfield, competed in the first scholarship final last year and has won her regional competition again. An experienced junior international, she has the best credentials to win this time.

Among her rivals are Lisa Jackson (Blackfen School, Sedgefield, Kent), Valerie Tuck (West Monkton Secondary School, Tunton, Devon), who also competed last year, and Wendy Pearce (Usward

Comprehensive School, Washington, co Durham).

Christopher Smith (Springhead School, Northfleet, Kent) came second in Carl Dodd (Leicester) last year. As London and South-east under-14 champion, he is favourite to win the boys' event.

Probably his strongest challenger will be Stuart English, of Claremont High School, East Kilbride, Scotland. Stuart is trained by his father, a former Scottish champion and British international.

Others bidding for the prize include Andrew Williams (Plymouth High School, Cardiff) and Stephen May (Colyton Grammar School, Colyton, Devon).

Gymnastic skill alone will not be enough. Just as important is the temperament to cope with the stress of a big occasion competition, not easy for boys and girls aged 15 to 18. All of them will have to perform over the whole range of Olympic apparatus.

The two winners, accompanied by two coaches to be named later, will spend a month with leading young Soviet gymnasts, getting the benefit of the highly skilled coaching for which the school of Soviet gymnastics is famous.

## Is there a future for basketball in colleges?

The final recently of the British colleges women's basketball championships was the highest standard of play yet seen at this level, writes Doug Springate, Dunfermline College of Physical Education, looking for a hot trick of wins, lost by one point to Dartford College, to home team. Despite a tight 10-point lead at one stage, Dunfermline fell behind and Dartford held on to win 60-59.

Behind this magnificent spectacle, however, there are several points that need to be made about the state of basketball in the colleges. Only one college in six entered the competition, and the six finalists (Dunfermline, Hullmer, Coventry, Endsleigh, Dartford and Dunfermline) do not represent fully the major PE training establishments in the country.

In many colleges, basketball is not on the curriculum, or very near to it. Only two of the finalists were coached by PE lecturers—three were students and I work in an education department. All were men. It seems it is still the hard working "amateur" who keeps the sport alive.

It is apparent, too, that colleges

in regions where regular high standard competition is available consistently perform better than those who are more isolated. Even in noted centres of women's basketball such as London, few colleges make the most of the established league structures.

The problems of finding the best college teams together are time and money, factors which thwart the formation of a British colleges team. Experienced independent observers noted the high standard of play at the final; there is a wealth of talent lying dormant, unrecognised or underused and undetached in colleges.

There is obviously a need for more basketball in colleges, for more regional competition and for more stimulus from the EBIA. It is here, with these future PE teachers, that the development of the game depends. As each college coach breaks up his squad and says goodbye to his best players, he can only hope they will not be lost to the game, as players, teachers and coaches.

Doug Springate is lecturer in education at Dartford College and coach to the Dartford team.

## The 11-year-old 'grandmaster'

Nigel Short, of St Philips Junior School, Atherton, near Manchester, has a strong claim to be regarded as the world's best under-11 chess player. Nigel, whose eleventh birthday is this month, will undoubtedly carry his "grandmaster" billing into the under-12 category.

Such is Nigel's standing that he and his family were invited to Amsterdam last month for a special tournament to mark the seventy-fifth birthday of Dr Uwe, the Dutch president of the World Chess Federation. During his stay, Nigel played a simultaneous match against 25 others, including adults, and won 22, drew one and lost two.

At the beginning of the year Nigel was one of the 30 best under-21 British players to play Victor Korchnoi, the world's number two in a simultaneous match and was the only winner. He is believed to be the youngest player ever to have beaten a grandmaster.

Nigel's claim to be the world's best in his age group is based on the points system; rather like golf handicapping, which is worked out by the London Chess Club. This is done by monitoring the results of all leading British and overseas players.

Nigel, who in September moves

on to Bolton School, which has a strong chess tradition, and Julian Hodgson, a 12-year-old who is going to St Paul's School, London, are two of the prodigies being nursed by Leonard Barden, the national junior chess organizer, who is perhaps better known as a chess writer for the *Guardian*, *Financial Times* and *London Evening Standard*.

Julian is the men's amateur champion of London and is third in South-East England. Next month he will represent Britain in the under-18 championship of the world to be held in France and will be the youngest competitor there.

In September, he and Nigel will take part in an international chess match between London and New York.

Mr Barden says of both boys that they have good analytical minds and are strong competitors. Britain, the Soviet Union and the USA are the top three in junior chess. The two super powers have no cash problems in keeping their chess going, the first with state aid, the second with private enterprise.

In comparison, there is very little in Britain. Recently the DCS turned down a request for £1,000 to help develop junior chess for hundreds of young players.

## US offer to freestyle champion

by Asif Khan

David Parker (above), the 16-year-old Midlands schoolboy who won a bronze medal at the world swimming championships last year, has received an offer to visit the United States.

He has been offered a 12-month scholarship by Miami University where another leading swimmer, David Wilkie, is studying. Parker, a pupil of Lakes School, Coventry, and captain of the British junior squad, is the only Englishman to break the 16 min barrier at freestyle swimming.

Miami University made an offer in a telephone call from coach, Mr Bill Dias. They are determined to have approached other young British swimmers to join them.

Parker is a member of the British Olympic team and is taking part in the 1,500m final at Montreal. He practices more than 17 hours a week at Lakes School, Coventry, and under the eye of Mr Bill Dias, a former Olympic coach.

Mr Dias travels to the United States next week to meet Mr Dick Jochims, coach of the University of Southern California, and Mr Mark Schubert, coach of the University of California, Berkeley. Mr Jochims and Mr Schubert have trained world champions at 1,500m.

Mr Dias said he would be best for Parker when he becomes world champion in the next two years. He would make sure that if he went to the United States he had the best coach to train him, as well as the best opportunities in further education.

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## Formal and informal matters

Last month the TES invited the author of 'Teaching Styles and Pupil Progress' to discuss his controversial book with a group of distinguished educationists. On the next three pages we publish extracts from their conversation, in which they discussed the validity of the research, its effect on teachers, the implications for public policy, and some new directions for educational research

Vincent Rogers: I think it's an enormously important piece of research. It has received tremendous attention in the US, it fits into the pattern of what's happening politically, socially, educationally, and in other ways. But one of the things that bothers me is that the case has been overstated in the light of the data you have.

To some extent the media has done this, but maybe you have done it, too, inadvertently. I think it would have been much better if you had said: "There are a number of variables that we haven't accounted for here, so look upon this with caution, nobody can do the perfect research, we did the best we could."

Another deep concern is the question of the 11-plus examination, which made an enormous difference among the informal children. If the ratio had been reversed, if you had had five informal schools that had the 11-plus about to take place instead of three, this could have made a considerable difference.

I'm also concerned that you may well be testing for teacher experience—there are some hints that the formal teachers were older and more experienced.

Perhaps my deepest concern is about the nature of the children themselves. While you clearly accounted for initial differences, I don't see how you've accounted for initial differences in ability and initial differences in achievement. These children may well be quite different in ability: as a year goes by one might attribute much of the change to that factor. Neville Bennett: The variables accounted for are in direct relation to the question we asked. We weren't evaluating progressive teaching, though that's the way the national press have played it. We were asking ourselves, does teaching style affect pupil progress in the basic skills? We were also concerned whether the personality of the child interacted with teaching style to effect progress. If we had wanted to do an evaluation of progressive teaching the variables would have been much wider.

Noel Entwistle: Our previous research has been on the relationships between personality and attainment: we looked at the effect of the relationship between personality and attainment in primary, middle and secondary schools. Others had suggested there was "age effect", and we wanted to see whether we would detect that. We didn't, but we seemed to find differences between primary classrooms in the relationships between personality and attainment.

When we put our proposal to the SSRC we were concerned with personality in relation to attainment, defined as progress in the basic skills. We've introduced tests which were related much more to classroom attitudes and behaviour than general personality characteristics: it was only as an intervening variable that we wanted

to measure teaching styles. But when we got the result, the personality variable had accounted for much less of the variance than the teaching style. We could never have seen ourselves with a book of this sort as the outcome. The research design contains what looks like flaws because it appears we should have done a different sort of research design.

Neville Bennett: We have stated clearly that the results only relate to 10 and 11-year-olds in two counties in the north-west of England—yet they have been generalized to cover the whole country and all age groups. It was our fault in retrospect that we didn't put down the characteristics of the teachers of the sample. We gave some idea of the characteristics in the population that we were playing with, but not about the experience of the teachers.

But the teachers in our formal and informal samples have the same age-range, the same range of experience, the same range of class sizes, they're teaching in the same age of buildings, and so on. So those factors are controlled for.

On the 11-plus examination, there were far fewer informal teachers in 11-plus areas. But this was true in the population as a whole; removing the 11-plus examination meant a move to more informality. We certainly found more informal teaching in non-11-plus areas. But the three informal teachers in 11-plus areas were still teaching informally, so their teaching style was the same as that of informal teachers not in the 11-plus area. They were perhaps creating more structure, or concentrating more on certain curriculum elements.

The question about differences in achievement and not in ability is a difficult one. We were concerned with change

in attainment; if you correlate attainment tests with IQ tests you'll find there's a very high correlation, so I'm not sure that that would have made any difference.

Vincent Rogers: Isn't that one of our great concerns: we might be starting off with a group of kids in formal classes who have more "native intelligence", whatever that is.

Noel Entwistle: I think if you look at the tables of initial achievement level in relation to progress in different types of schools, the argument that results are explicable in terms of the different composition of the samples is not very strong. Possibly we were wrong in suggesting that there was a different pattern for the informal boys, because we were dealing with such small groups that there almost certainly isn't a significant difference from the overall pattern.

It seems to me that the ability factor is dealt with but I'm not at all sure that the social class factor is. We looked at two indices of social class we had from the headteachers' questionnaire, in which they reported the number of children having school meals and the number of immigrants.

In three of the informal schools the proportion of one or other of those was higher than in any of the formal schools, but the pattern of results was consistent (except for that one informal school). You might be able to take three of the schools and say there were special circumstances there which would account for lack of progress in whatever their measured initial attainment was.

Also, given that the 11-plus was affecting the formal schools more than the others, given that there may have been more children from middle-class backgrounds, we may have another variable,

parental encouragement, or even parental teaching, which could be affecting that group in a differential way.

We're reporting the results not simply on the evidence in the book, but on the feeling that we got working with the data over the years. I'd be surprised if the pattern we're describing wasn't correct in the region we were looking at. But I would not be surprised if the size of the differences came out differently in different parts of the country or in different samples. Obviously it's crucial that some sort of research like this is done elsewhere, so that we can get more evidence.

Vincent Rogers: One of the conclusions I have come to is that it may not be possible to do the kind of research attempted here. But I hate to think we're at such a primitive stage that it isn't possible. I would have preferred to do research over a five or six year period, to do it utilizing a great deal of data as well as the standardized test kind, and certainly to use other geographical areas.

But one of the positive things is that everyone is talking about something they weren't talking about before.

Leonard Marsh: As far as teachers are concerned, we are talking about three schools that may have factors that teachers consider very important, like free meals, like the number of immigrants and so on. The research will not help the development of functional teaching, or more effective teaching styles—despite the title. It is research which gets a political response—which is why the media is treating it that way.

If we'd been discussing the finer thread of the social groupings, the way this or that classroom operated, we would have had more teacher intervention and more teacher debate.

Noel Entwistle: On what basis do you say there has not and will not be a large amount of teacher debate? In our area the book is provoking just that. Whereas previously the formal teachers and the informal teachers didn't seem to communicate, they are now beginning to start a dialogue. It's not provoking hostile reactions.

Leonard Marsh: I don't think it is a question of hostility between progressive and non-progressive, or any kind of debate of that kind. I think there is an acceptance that there is a wide range of teaching styles within any effective classroom: this polarization is the kind of debate that teachers would have rushed to join 20 years ago.

I think we can make a useful inquiry into teaching styles if the consequences

## Taking part in the discussion were:

Neville Bennett,  
Lecturer in Educational Research, University of Lancaster,  
author of *Teaching Styles and Pupil Progress*.

Jerome Bruner,  
Watts Professor of Psychology, University of Oxford.

Noel Entwistle,  
Professor of Education, University of Lancaster,  
co-director of the research project.

Leonard Marsh,  
Principal, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.

Joslyn Owen,  
Chief Education Officer, Devon.

Vincent Rogers,  
Professor of Education, University of Connecticut.



# Formal and informal matters

continued from previous page

of the inquiry would cause teachers to reflect upon their own activity, to improve their own activity through becoming more conscious of what they're doing. But if you're going to trigger off that kind of consequence, then the kind of net that you throw over their activity must be fine enough for them to see that it's the ball game that they recognise.

Vincent Rogers: In some cases the research questions were asking a lot. For example, "Can a junior child select a project and carry it through on his own?" That's a very tough question—in some of the best informal schools I've known, junior kids are indeed selecting projects, but perhaps out of some traces that have been pre-set by the teacher, so that it's not a completely free situation that the child is choosing.

Carrying it through on his own may not mean carrying it through on his own 100 per cent, but with a lot of teacher intervention here and there. So it is difficult to figure out how the teacher might have responded in some of those items. If we could look carefully at some of the teachers in your sample, we might find a good deal of evidence, even at the extremes, of mixed styles.

Neville Bennett: I admit if you want to go to a very specific level you will find quite a lot of variation. But we sent out not only the research team, but also the local education authority primary school advisers, to report back to us. Their agreements were very, very high—advisers can perceive general teaching styles.

Jerome Bruner: I for one was very disappointed that there were not some appendices in for the numerals.

Neville Bennett: It would have made the price of the book over £3. At a very late stage I was asked to drop 50 pages, and frankly it was easier to drop them out of the appendix than to rewrite the book. Since we were aiming for a teacher market it seemed more sensible to do that: we had in mind that there would be a separate report to the SSRC, which would include some of the more esoteric tables.

Jerome Bruner: You make a remark about the nature of the unit. You say two things that are quite contradictory. On the one hand you want to have the classroom as the unit, on the other hand you want to have interaction with personality, and classrooms don't have personalities. So that if you're using a co-variance design and take out characteristics of classrooms as an additional factor—which you could have done, and I think you have the data to do it—you can still use individual kids and their progress and get an interaction with personality.

Vincent Rogers: You can't assume that, say, 12 formal classroom kids all got the same treatment—those teachers are different from one another—so on that basis the classroom should be the unit.

Neville Bennett: We just created a rank order of classrooms in terms of gain. They came up with surprisingly the same pattern, with the exception of our very good informal classroom.

Noel Entwistle: The idea was to make the groups as homogeneous as possible. Obviously a questionnaire is not ideal, but questionnaire plus advisers is not a bad way, and a good deal better than any of the other research that's been done in this field before.

You can still doubt; of course, there's still variability, there's still going to be differences in teacher personality, in teacher effectiveness. But that's also true of the formal schools, and my guess is that the differences cancel out. I don't see the informal teachers as so different that they are going to create an effect of the type you suggest, although it's conceivable.

Jerome Bruner: On the business of formal versus informal, it's perfectly possible to have highly informal social interaction, and yet be teaching some-



Neville Bennett

'There's just no way of evaluating many of the things a progressive teacher wants to produce'



Vincent Rogers

'You can't assume that 12 formal classroom kids all got the same treatment'



Noel Entwistle

'Somebody is going to have to translate the ideas and implications into activities teachers might try'



Leonard Marsh

'This polarisation is the kind of debate that teachers would have rushed to join 20 years ago'



Jerome Bruner

'The issue of class structure in Britain makes for a degree of unmanageability in public and private life'



Joslyn Owen

'Policy still leaves teachers with private choices to make about how they teach their children'

thing the content of which is highly formal. I would have wanted something more, for the guidance of teachers, on the content of the instruction over a period of time as compared to the nature of the informality.

But if you're going to use informal methods of social interaction in the classroom, what then do you have to use by way of material to make it work?

We've all had formal and informal teachers and we've seen duds and geniuses on both sides of that particular line. So really the question also gets down to the issue of curriculum, as well as style of interaction.

Can you do research of this sort or not? The studies are certainly getting better; they used to be awful. You cast up questions, you come forth with better hypotheses for the next study. To hell with the media for the moment: you can't control the *Daily Mirror*.

These studies should be part of the debate, and we ought not to ask that they be regarded as absolutely definitive. The Educational Research Board of the SSRC ought to get in this business, and stay in the business, and not do hit and run romances with the topic.

I would also want to see case-histories of interaction in certain kinds of classrooms. From reading your book I got the feeling that there are certain kinds of kids that I would particularly want to look at. There would be types worth studying from the point of view of watching the courses.

One last point on the business of social maturity, emotional maturity and what one gets out of a classroom. There are certain things about formality, about having some kind of deadlines, having some requirements to fill, that might contribute to social maturity. The idea that social maturity only comes from the inside out and never from the outside in doesn't conform to what I know about kids, my own or others. It may very well be that a few formal things of that sort turn out to make the carrying out of an informal life a lot easier.

Leonard Marsh: If one is looking at a classroom where there is a working relationship between the teacher and at least some of the children, there'll be a whole lot of rituals and patterns and shaping of the day which many of the commentators would think makes it a very formal school, whereas in fact it's just a very effective teacher. There are a lot of teachers who can organize themselves and know where they're going. And how do you get to that?

If we're pressing researchers then we would have to say, why not case-histories? There's no antipathy to them in the schools, they've long been pleaded for.

Neville Bennett: We come back to the whole problem of teacher effectiveness. There is absolutely no agreement about what an effective teacher is.

Leonard Marsh: It depends where you look for the agreement. There are a vast number of people who have to work on some agreement day by day, and this is not within the research literature.

There is a very pragmatic way of recognizing teachers who do a good job. And a good job means things like children able to read, children able to write in a good hand, and so on.

The person immersed in the educational enterprise recognizes those kind of qualities in just the same way that a surgeon, if he's standing by watching another surgeon, watches his qualities and decides where to send his family when they want an operation.

I think it's quite wrong to suggest that there's no possibility of establishing effectiveness of teachers, merely because we haven't got enough research evidence for it.

Neville Bennett: The problem is we can ask local authority advisers to isolate successful teachers or schools for us, and then if you do a study on pupil progress you find that the pupil progress data doesn't line up with the advisers' success data. A classroom can look very good for very many reasons.

Joslyn Owen: What effect will it have on common policy? Since there isn't another Plowden on the way, and Newsom is now very old, then one puts it in the same category as the NFER work on the teacher's day, or Philip Jackson's *Life in Classrooms*, or even Philip Taylor's book about how teachers plan their courses. They are all books which have an effect on teachers if they are handled in the right way. I'm not certain that this book will create structures for the teachers on how to do it.

I also think in-service trainers don't know how to handle this, as against a central advisory council report, or a book by Philip Jackson, or one article in *New Society*. It is getting more and more difficult for people to understand on what level of immediacy they are dealing with research and research findings.

Policy still leaves teachers with private choices to make about how they teach their children day by day. I do not think official policies get anywhere near affecting them, either at the stage of being re-

trained or of being initially trained, other than by giving them a due cynicism or scepticism about whatever it is they read. Neville Bennett: But this was a theoretical study, it was not written with policy implications in mind. We've been utilized for spending four years on producing something that we all know anyway always get this.

Leonard Marsh: It is a question of how you put the influence on the developing corporate professional responsibility. Plowden put the influence not on the curriculum—if you are really dealing with curriculum and content there was no point in quoting Plowden—Plowden in terms of a lever was to do with participation, with this incomprehensible compensatory kind of factor. It makes absolutely no difference to the daily work in the classroom.

One thing a fair number of teachers are pulling out from the book is that judgment about developing a child's writing is tested by one kind of title given to the children to write about. If you want to affect the classroom, what you really want to know is the number of teachers who can give sheets of paper to children to try out ideas, the number who help children to look at dictionaries, the number who provide for totally private situations for writing a poem or a story, or corporate situations for sharing ideas.

Neville Bennett: I find what you have said completely amazing, that the Plowden report has had no effect on classroom practice. Thousands of students are fed on Plowden every year, and have been since 1967 when it came out, and they've been implementing the aims Plowden was pushing.

The three main threads that come out for teachers are contained in our conclusion: the time spent on a given conclusion; the time spent on a given curriculum area; the business of structuring and sequencing; and what sort of skills an informal teacher needs to be "successful".

These seem fairly crucial concerns to teachers in the way that they teach. I think they are picking out what we've tested creativity, it is an indictment on the teachers in your area.

Noel Entwistle: There are many teachers who are picking precisely the opposite things out.

Vincent Rogers: Plowden didn't serve as a beginning, but rather as a supporting document that continued a movement that had begun earlier.

Jerome Bruner: And legitimized it.

Joslyn Owen: And it could be used in the training and retraining of teachers

as a textbook. I think it would be much more difficult to use this as the basis of a course of in-service training. If it is to have a profound effect, you must somehow get the text in front of people, otherwise they are going to be living on every extract and summary and comment that they see—they might as well live on extracts of summaries of Black Papers as summaries of this.

With students in initial training you can compel them to read anything you put on a prescribed list. But to get advisers to use this, to get teacher trainers to use this with a teacher who thinks he knows most of it already, I think is much more difficult.

Neville Bennett: It's simply a source of ideas really. Whether you use this for teacher training is an individual decision—we're not saying, look at this book, then go and use it for teacher training.

Noel Entwistle: This started off as pure research, but if it has implications, what precisely are they? If they were adopted in that precise form, what effect would it have on the effectiveness of those teachers? If we are not careful this research won't be done. There will just be this book, which challenges a view of informal methods in primary education that has developed over the years, and has been taught in colleges of education and elsewhere, often without adequate qualification.

It needs to be translated not just in terms of putting over the main points in a way that teachers will be interested in, but somebody is going to have to do the intermediate step—the technology side of it, the translation of the ideas and implications into precise activities that teachers might like to try.

Jerome Bruner: I find myself bemused. Education is about the only field where people are expected to produce an all-purpose aircraft. If the authors had ended their book with some things about how this is going to be a golden instruction for teacher training, I would have said that they had been carried away by their enthusiasm. But they didn't.

The great problem about the conduct of educational research is that you get so many studies here and there, but no high command that is thinking through the situation as to how you get a set of implications, but doubt-raising capacities with respect to things like curriculum and teaching training.

If I was a chief education officer and my chaps came to me and said what

should we do on the basis of this book, I'd be hard put to know what to do. But I wouldn't blame the authors for that, I'd blame myself and the system.

I hope people will start asking again if we can afford to take one volume like the Plowden or the Hadow report as the only major guide to educational planning. Nobody is really taking that seriously as the only voice now, and I hope that this will hurry on the next stage.

Joslyn Owen: I don't worry about informal methods in the generality of schools in Devon, I want to specify weakness. I get examples every day about what the weaknesses are, and they don't go under the generality of informal versus formal.

Neville Bennett: They go under the flag of people perhaps doing things because they think this is what Plowden wanted them to do, or this is what they thought it would want them to do.

I don't know what an effectively taught child is until he's emerged somewhere with signs of effectiveness, and regretfully the sign of effectiveness is whether he's got CSE or ONS or something. I want to relate what you're saying in the book to what's going on in secondary schools. That's when we can actually say, "Well, is it effective or is it ineffective?"

Noel Entwistle: So would I—and I take the point that it should have been a six-year study. But £20,000 doesn't go that far. And it would be very nice if it were possible to see the careers of these children, because you can't spot the positives, but you can spot the negatives.

Joslyn Owen: The organization of schools demands that people should be formal versus informal. The middle school is a good example of a lot of thoughtlessness producing poor results in the name of informality; the results in the name of formality people are embarrassed about. They are good, and they don't really like to think they're good for that reason.

Neville Bennett: But why is that? Why do they think that way? The problem comes I think because advisers, in the main, have been pushing a progressive line.

Joslyn Owen: Yes, but they've been pushing it not because it's progressive, but because open-plan schools require a certain amount of letting children get on on their own. Integrated day classes, the way in which you put the older children together with the younger in smaller schools: all these things require that the eye of the teacher is off, and as soon as that is said, then people say they are being informal.

Neville Bennett: But you don't have to offer an integrated day in open-plan schools.

Jerome Bruner: We are all acting as if the notions that underlie a progressive attitude or a more formal attitude is something that is invented in schools. This surely could not be right. This generation of undergraduates—and the generation that I saw last, who are the ones that you are talking about as teachers—read in the main to have an enormous conflict in the relationship between formal and informal, which is one of the things that makes your book such a bombshell.

Everyone is worried about this. Relationships with the family—to what extent is there a formal relation with mother versus father versus child; relationships at work, between a supervisor and the person who's working with him; obviously this is one of the main crisis points within our society, if something as basic as the family is going through a transformation. I do not think you just change the schools. The tremendous impact of Plowden is that it hit a generation that was discovering this new way of breaking into a more informal, less hierarchically structured environment.

This relates also to the question of what becomes of the class structure in Britain. I do not know how you would predict from the social class of your pupils how they would do in terms of informal or formal classes, but one thing I know is that the whole issue of class structure in Britain is now so tense, and makes for a degree of unmanageability of public life, and private life, and certainly life in my university, that its reverberations within the school are to some extent beyond your control.

Vincent Rogers: The great difficulty progressives have is that they tend to think what they do can make a more total difference to the kind of human being that emerges, yet they are somewhat naive about all the influences that operate on a human being as he comes up through the culture.

Noel Entwistle: The climate of public opinion does change and what is accepted in the way of research often depends on that climate. Take a student who's going to become a teacher. Personalities do differ in the extent to which a formal or an informal approach is compatible with the way they would like to teach. Teachers undergo pressures not just in training, but also in terms of the general climate of opinion that affects the headteacher, who in turn affects teachers who come into their school.

The pressures change from decade to decade, to what extent formality or informality is acceptable, but all the time the range of teachers is probably as great as ever, so that some will take the formal methods and some will take the informal methods, and will justify one or the other.

It's very interesting to see why teachers adopt a method, but I'm worried that when they have adopted one, in some cases there is a tendency to believe that it is going to be the best method for all the children in the class. If you force somebody to teach in a way which doesn't match his natural style that would be quite absurd. But he should also be aware of the possible effect of adopting a style on different personalities in the children. Joslyn Owen: But does he have a choice? The style of teaching anything is something which is the only way you can live with it. Noel Entwistle: I don't think they have a great deal of choice in the tendency they adopt, but in the way in which they exhibit it I think they have a great deal of opportunity to change. I think the message we would like to put over is that within quite a small change it might be possible to do all that we are suggesting some informal teachers might think about doing. It wouldn't be a drastic change, because we have our example of a progressive teacher, who gets these exceptionally good results in the basic skills without destroying the ethos of the classroom.

Jerome Bruner: There's a good deal of doubt, coming as much from Neville as anybody else, whether the simple dichotomy of formal versus informal is a manageable dichotomy. I think we all have the feeling that that has to be analysed a lot more closely.

Neville Bennett: I think you've got to look around elsewhere to see what other researchers are finding. I have located six studies of this sort, and they all show the same pattern. In one American study the high-ability children were one year and three months advanced in formal situations. But there's a problem with the case-study approach. If you take one supposedly effective teacher and you describe their practice, are all other teachers doing the same as that particular teacher going to get the same results? Noel Entwistle: No, but if you have 50 such studies from all over the world... Neville Bennett: ... You can build them up together. This essentially is how Piagetian theory developed, with groups of three or four kids in the Swiss middle class. This is it, you get a number of case-studies each looking at the different classrooms, then you attempt to pull out the links or similarities between them.

Jerome Bruner: Your example of Piaget is very apt—if you're interested in how a child achieves the idea of invariance across variations in appearance then you will have learnt something. But if you really want to learn something about development, you have to have a very soul-searching time about what criterion you are shooting for. You are not just looking at how they do the standardized test—you come to the question, what are you going to produce, and why are you trying to produce it?

Neville Bennett: But that's a different question from the one we're trying to answer. Jerome Bruner: None the less, case histories have to bear it in mind. Neville Bennett: The whole problem is there's just no way of evaluating many of the things that the progressive teacher wants to produce.

Vincent Rogers: One of the characteristics that has been associated with informal teachers is flexibility. My guess is that a good formal teacher is also a flexible person. If you are that rigid that you never change anything, I don't think you are going to be a good teacher. There has been some research along those lines; maybe that's an avenue that ought to be pursued.



# A philosopher for our time

Gabriel Chanan  
on Hannah Arendt

The death of Hannah Arendt last December at the age of 69 has passed almost completely unremarked in Britain. She has not remained over here the recognition which, in her adoptive America, makes her ideas an indispensable landmark when the politics and psychology of the present day world are being discussed. Yet even her British detractors credit her with outstanding originality and at least intermittent brilliance. Those more in sympathy with her work would think that she grapples with the problem of meaning in contemporary life with an unparalleled combination of intellect, passion and humanity.

I tend to the latter view. But her work is far too rich for me to attempt a definitive judgment, or even in this note to give more than a painfully simplified impression of the excitement of her ideas. What is certain is that she ought to be read far more than she is, for she has a wealth of light to shed on the problems of freedom and purpose which animate us in 1976.

Hannah Arendt was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1906. At university in Marburg, Freiburg and Heidelberg she studied philosophy, Greek and theology. Karl Jaspers and Martin Heidegger were among her teachers. The subject of her PhD thesis, which was published in Berlin, was "The Concept of Love in St Augustine". The events of 1933 exploded her scholarly career. Soon after Hitler's accession to power she fled to collect data secretly on official anti-Semitism for the Zionist organization. "Jewish, but not a Zionist" at this time she had as yet no definite interest in politics.

She was arrested but managed to escape, to leave Germany illegally and to make her way to France. There, all writing and intellectual ambition abandoned, she did social work among Jewish refugees, and organized emigration to Palestine. In 1941 she again escaped, to the United States where she subsequently remained and eventually became a citizen.

During her first two years in the United States she wrote a column in a German-Jewish newspaper, chiefly on the need for a Jewish army. For the decade following the war she worked in institutions devoted to Jewish culture in America. Subsequently she was a visiting professor in a number of American universities but gave her main energies to writing. She was married in 1940 to Heinrich Blücher, an art historian, who died in 1970. They had no children.

The end of the war permitted her to take up her intellectual work again—but now its subject and purpose were entirely conditioned by the turbulent experiences of the past 12 years. Her aim was to document, to digest, to understand not only the Nazi holocaust and developments in Russia but what was happening to the whole spirit of man in the twentieth century. The result of these labours, *On Violence*, *On Revolution*, *On Tyranny*, appeared in 1961 and was widely acclaimed. "The years' spirit writing it, from 1945 onwards, appears like the first breath of a new calm after decades of turmoil, confusion and plain horror."

Her thesis was that totalitarianism—Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia—was a form of government wholly new in world history. Where tyrants sought domination, totalitarianism sought to liquidate all autonomous activity at the roots: it created a new type of human being, the "mass man", whose mind, and personality belonged entirely to the synthetic reality of the movement and the leader's will.

To substantiate this analysis, Arendt dug deep into the climate of popular ideas in the nineteenth century. All previous conceptions of politics, whether classical, communist or capitalist, had assumed self-interest to be its one stable and



irreducible factor. Totalitarianism showed that even self-interest could be annihilated if all social groupings other than the movement itself were first destroyed. Thus all attempts to explain totalitarianism as a bid for advantage, whether of a nation, a class or even a single despot, would fall short of the reality. The driving force was a desperate wish to replace the randomness of reality and the unpredictability of experience with the fast-track logic of an all-embracing ideology.

From here, Arendt moved to other fundamental questions of modern consciousness. Six essays written between 1954 and 1961 and published as *Between Past and Future* analysed respectively the concepts, and particularly their modern decline, of tradition, history, authority, freedom, education and culture. This is the most approachable of her characteristic works. The fifth of these essays is her only sustained discussion of explicitly educational issues, but it is really a drawing together of the rich educational implications of her work as whole.

She argues that progressive education in the United States (in 1960) is a disaster. Freedom, the proper aim of the political sphere, is not served by extending the political sphere as such into education. "By being emancipated from the authority of adults the child has not been freed but has been subjected to a much more devastating and truly tyrannical authority: the tyranny of the majority." Freedom is not merely escape from compulsion but influence over common decisions. Concern for freedom will issue in a clear intention to equip the new generation with a full understanding of the public realm, an understanding which they cannot achieve purely through their own experience.

A vital distinction must be made, Arendt argues, between intellectual qualifications and the teacher's qualification consists in knowing the world and being able to instruct others about it, but his authority rests on his assumption of responsibility for that world. (In education) authority has been discarded by the adults, and this can mean only one thing: that the adults

refuse to assume responsibility for the world into which they have brought the children. . . . Modern man could find no clearer expression for his dissatisfaction with the world, for his disgust with things as they are, than by his refusal to assume, in respect of his children, responsibility for all this.

This disgust, she insists, is the very opposite of a revolutionary determination to found a new order in the world. How it arose is the question she addresses in *The Human Condition* (1958). This is the book which established her reputation as a philosopher. The framework is a distinction between labour, work and action. Labour is the production of the necessities of life, and as such is an endless, constantly consuming and consumed activity. Work is the production of enduring objects, material and cultural, which stabilize the world and make it into a human world, rescuing him from the endless transience of merely living. Action is the realm of politics, the creation of a public space where freedom can be lived out.

The modern world, beginning with Galileo and decisively accelerated since the French Revolution, has seen the rise of labour to dominance over both work and action. Both public action, properly understood, and private experience have increasingly shrunk with the expansion of the social—the realm of the life-process. The ever-growing momentum of production and consumption eats away both the concept and the reality of the world-as-a-home-for-man. Everything is dissolved into process, and politics itself is converted (more influentially by Marx) into a historical accident in which the only important thing is a far off dénouement. Respectful of Marx in many ways, on this central point Arendt regards him as fatally confused. Not, as she says Marx said, alienation from himself but alienation from the world is the characteristic psychological disease of modern man.

In 1960, Adolf Eichmann, Hitler's principal agent for organizing the extermination of European Jews, was captured in South America by Israeli agents and subsequently tried and executed in Israel. The trial was designed to impress on public attention the nature of Nazi crimes against the Jews. The New Yorker

sent Hannah Arendt to cover the trial, and the result was a series of articles later republished as *Eichmann in Jerusalem*.

For Arendt, Eichmann's exposure was a perfect opportunity to test and particularize her analysis of the totalitarian mind. What she found most significant about him was that he was not a grotesque monster of a man, or an obsessive maniac in the Hitler mould, but a man without character, a conformist taking pride in "doing his job properly", lacking in imagination, mentally dependent on clichés, incapable of looking what he was doing full in the face. The book was subtitled "a report on the banality of evil".

It would be a labour of years to review with justice the hundreds of thousands of words that were written for and against this interpretation, and I have no wish to revive the controversy now. The book aroused furious opposition from Zionists, but not only from Zionists, for what was seen as an attempt to deny that Eichmann should be held fully responsible for his actions. Nowhere, in fact, did Arendt argue this. She supported the holding of the trial and the execution of Eichmann. She did criticize the prosecution and say that it would have been better if the trial had been conducted by an international court, for she felt that the world-wide significance of the Nazi phenomenon and indeed of anti-Semitism was being neglected by treating it primarily as an event in Jewish rather than world history.

The controversy took on, as these things do, a life of its own, which bore a fainter and fainter relation to what Arendt had actually written. The concept of "the banality of evil", however, has remained a popular and vital idea in trying to understand the forces of totalitarianism in our time. It was cited, for example, by Stanley Milgram in his research on Obedience to Authority.

While the Eichmann controversy was still reverberating, the last of Arendt's major works, *On Revolution*, appeared. It received wide-spread, but largely hostile notices in Britain, which could partly account for her presence in neglect. It is basically a comparison of the French and American revolutions and their subsequent influence. The American revolution put

liberty first and created a political which, whatever its failings (and Arendt concedes they are enormous), has so far survived intact. The French Revolution, on the other hand, rapidly devoured its own creators and initiated a series of worldwide constitutional revolutions in the midst of which still live. Arendt declared her self in favour of revolution on the American model, and castigated America for having forgotten its own original virtues and become the opponent of revolution in the rest of the world. Between American destructiveness, the revolutionary tradition had "lost its treasure", the spirit of public freedom and happiness in which it began in the eighteenth century.

British critics berated Arendt for regarding the establishment of the American republic as a true revolution, for neglecting all the modern revolutions except the Russian, and for putting political liberty decisively above material equality, a revolutionary aim. Bernard Gell wrote: "One is in the presence of the most original mind in modern political literature—but here she laid the biggest curate's egg imaginable."

In her remaining 12 years, Hannah Arendt produced a massive work, though she is said to have left two thirds completed, culminating work on the life of the mind. She did publish a variety of essays, mostly brilliant, sometimes disappointing, which appeared in two collections, *Men in Dark Times* and *Crises of the Republic*. The latter, more than compelling, she could at times become so in her pursuit of paradox as to smother the commonsense aspect of the question in hand.

However, the explanation for neglect in England is probably mainly in the unfamiliarity of her intellectual posture, including its sheer immensity. She has an unfashionable respect for classical medieval and enlightenment philosophers, and the incisive poignancy with which her real, at times, like an enigmatic of ancient Greece expressing his wonderment as he steps out of the time machine. Yet she also writes out of the heart of twentieth-century darkness.

Despite her affinities with continental philosophy, she is committed to all systems, which she claims to claim to human affairs by an underlying law, whether sociological, psychological or historical. History, she insists, is the emergence of the new and the ungraspable. While man must strive to understand the totality of reality, he is always at all costs "the servant of logic, against which culture stands but the great capacity of men to start something new."

The books of Hannah Arendt are: *The Human Condition* (New York: Basic Books, 1958); *On Violence* (New York: Basic Books, 1969); *On Revolution* (New York: Basic Books, 1963); *Between Past and Future* (New York: Basic Books, 1961); *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (New York: Basic Books, 1963); *Men in Dark Times* (New York: Basic Books, 1968); *Crises of the Republic* (New York: Basic Books, 1973).

There is one British monograph of Hannah Arendt, by Margaret Canovan, *Hannah Arendt: A Critical Introduction* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1972). It is an excellent brief introduction to her work, and particularly to her interpretation of the American revolution which contrasts the conventional political

# Reader, writer, idea

A. S. Byatt on two new studies of Jane Austen

*Jane Austen and the War of Ideas*, by Marilyn Butler. Oxford University Press £8.00. 19 812068 0.  
*A Reading of Jane Austen*, by Barbara Hardy. Peter Owen £4.75. 7206 0134 70.

These two books on Jane Austen make useful complementary reading. Dr Butler sets out to deal with the common assumption that Jane Austen evaded the representation of the social or political complexities of her time. She does this by studying Jane Austen's novels in the context of a detailed survey of the novel in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. This survey, in turn, is carried out in the context of contemporary moral, political, psychological and philosophical thought. "The novel of Jane Austen's day," she claims, "was not just didactic. It was also seen as relevant to contemporary issues, and, since these issues were unusually deep and clearcut, inevitably partisan."

Professor Hardy's study is not history of ideas, but what might be called mimetic criticism. She works, typically, by constructing a minute and sensitive image of the reading process, which, in its turn, hints at the complexities and difficulties of the imaginative choices and technical decisions of Jane Austen's writing process. She is aware of her place in history but prefers, temperamentally, to draw her analogies from the whole field of fiction, both before and after—*Servant, Defoe, George Eliot, Samuel Johnson*. Both critics do, however, focus on Jane Austen's technical innovations and both concentrate on the subtleties of her presentation of consciousness, inner life, private and social.

Dr Butler's primary war of ideas is between the liberal sentimentalists and the conservative rational-

ists—to classify crudely an edifying series of definitions and redefinitions of human nature which she depicts as a literary polemic. The sentimentalists believed, basically, that man's instincts were good—that the individual who followed his natural passions, uncorrupted by society, would be virtuous and admirable. The fiction constructed according to such beliefs would concentrate on the virtues of sympathy and sensibility, would exalt the requirements of the individual above those of the group, would examine the state of consciousness in detail, would tend to moral relativism and even further, to revolution. Sentimental writing was related to the autobiographical subtleties and fervours of the confessions of Rousseau and Werther. It was also modified by the philosophical views of human nature of thinkers such as Hume and Gibbon who saw man very much as a passive creature dominated by the external environment and by the individual nervous system. One's instincts might be good, but one's will-power and reason were likely to be ineffective; thus "the typical hero of the era of sensibility is not the master of events, nor even the agent, but the sensitive observer."

English Jacobin novels, unlike continental ones, inhabited in fact a strong puritan tradition and tended to base justice on reason rather than on revolutionary passion. Nevertheless, the events of the French Revolution produced an intensification of the English mistrust of passion, of instinct, the individual Burke asserted that man's basic instincts were such that our culture was the sum of our corporate wisdom and reason, that men should be regulated by such corporate piety and judgments. The anti-Jacobins preached against the easy optimism of the sentimentalists and revolutionaries and it is in the context of this conservative reaction that Dr Butler places Jane Austen.

"It becomes clear that Jane Austen's strong liking of the actual—that virtually moral dis-

taste which she displays, from the juvenilia on, for the romantic glow on truth—is a characteristic puritan position of the time. Her development of the clever heroine, who strives, though often guiltily for a clear-sighted assessment of human weakness, including her own, is also typical, and not the idiosyncratic taste of one original talent. Scrupulous about human claims to virtue, however specious, real pessimism about the validity of individual human insights, are the hallmarks of the conservative writer."

One of the most admirable and exciting aspects of Dr Butler's book is the way in which she relates these large movements of mind to technical changes in the developing novel. In novels of sensibility, of emphasis is shifted from the action, the cause and effect of plot, to the character's mind and inner development, which is what is morally felt to be important. Such emphasis produces the novel which is a series of "scenes" each refining the passionate responses of characters to outside forces or people—the work required of the reader, both as a moral agent and an aesthetic appreciator, is to sympathize with the character's psychology.

These developments are behind Jane Austen's new subtleties of insight and presentation, but much of her technical work is corrective. Dialogue represents the proper social expression and constraint of the individual. The love plot of the sentimental novel concerns the heroine's choice of true love—often in opposition to social conventions which consist or inhibit her. Jane Austen's plots are also about the heroine's choices—but the element of reason and conventional wisdom, the inadequacy of intuition, are everywhere displayed. Such historical insights make the study of Jane Austen's moment-to-moment narrative choices, her entries into the minds of her characters, her deployment of their interrelations both more possible and more fascinating.

It is with these narrative choices, as I said, that Professor Hardy is primarily concerned. Her first chapter discusses Jane Austen's "flexible medium", her capacity to combine, to move flexibly between "extraverted and introverted actions", her capacity "to glide easily from sympathy to detachment, from one mind to many minds, from solitary scenes to social gatherings. . . . The combination of such social notation with such analysis of consciousness transforms our sense of what the novel can do." In later chapters Professor Hardy analyses Jane Austen's treatment of the feelings and passions, the effect of the internal narratives told by characters to other listening characters, the depiction of social groups, of properties and possessions, and finally the authorial presence, both as direct commentator, as indirect narrator, and, in certain cases, as part of the consciousness of the characters. (Fanny Price's witty observations are even intrinsically, very closely related to her creator's.)

Such a list of subjects can in itself show how Professor Hardy moves constantly between author, character and reader, and the flexible medium of the prose. She is particularly good on the interactions of the groups, and on Jane Austen's measuring and embodying of the intelligence of her characters. She quotes at length and most appositely. Reading her analyses is something between reading Jane Austen and a rare and continually helpful lesson in creative writing.

The insights these two writers

offer on individual novels are sometimes complementary and sometimes contradictory. Dr Butler says that there are didactic reasons why Elizabeth Bennet's inner passions are not displayed. Professor Hardy triumphantly demonstrates that they are. Professor Hardy shows us the delicacy with which Fanny Price's consciousness of her world, and of her solitude within it, are set up. Dr Butler offers the brilliant and provocative view that what people sense to be wrong with *Mansfield Park* is the result of "the incongruity of subjective heroine-centred writing to the subject in hand". The presentation of Fanny, she says, claims sympathy for her because of her weakness and passive situation. The moral of the plot claims sympathy for her intransigent, intelligent strength.

Professor Hardy is brilliant on the social groups of families and the use of talk to create the closeness and distance of them. Dr Butler, analysing the precedent of Maria Edgeworth, points out that dialogue developed technically to depict the moral structure of a world where what happened was not, on the whole, as she says, but talk. Words were the life of ladies in drawing rooms.

Both approaches have their dangers. Dr Butler occasionally distorts a novel to fit her thesis (I can see why Jane Fairfax was not an anti-heroine. I don't believe it, quite.) Professor Hardy runs the risk of pointing out to a sensitive reader what that sensitive reader has already read in Jane Austen, and thus seeming to interfere or repetitive. But both are far too good for these complaints to be more than tangential to their very solid achievements.

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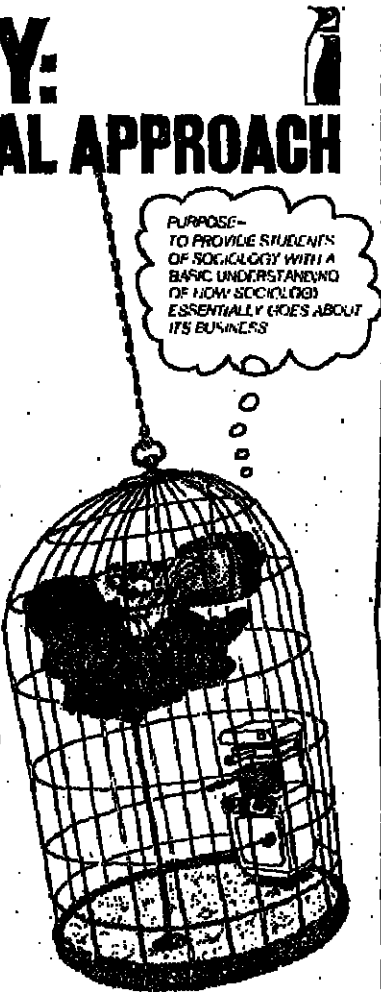
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## Warmth, cant, and gobbledegook

Charles Rycroft on humanistic psychology

*Ordinary Ectasy*, by John Rowan. Routledge and Kegan Paul £2.25. 7200 8344 0.

Apart from the information that playing golf can be a form of movement meditation and may induce states of ecstasy, this book has nothing new to say about ecstasy, ordinary or extraordinary. It has, however, considerable value if read as a guide to the counter-culture.

Its author is at present chairman of the Association for Humanistic Psychology, which is one of many organizations propagating a new vision of human nature and relationships, one based on love, on a belief in the goodness of man and his potential for virtually unlimited growth. In this book he provides detailed descriptions of all those states and activities which are in "humanistic" and "non-humanistic" and with which his association is in communion, and which are in his view infidel or heretical—the religious classifications, of course, the reviewer's the author's.

The activities which have Mr Rowan's blessing and of which he speaks approvingly and (so far as I can gather) accurately include: group encounters, micro-groups, encounter groups, counselling, Gestalt therapy, person-centred therapy, psychodrama, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, group therapy, meditation, transcendental meditation, LSD, "peak experiences"—their

name, it can be seen, is legion.

The infidels to whom Mr Rowan's Humanistic Psychologists are opposed are the general establishment and all participants in bourgeois society and, more particularly, behaviourists and psychoanalysts, who "have a pessimistic 'bad-animal' view of human nature, and therefore exhort us to reject the needs and powers of society to socialize and tame the child, and to keep the adult socialized and tamed."

Humanistic Psychologists are, however, neither Marxists nor anarchists, since they believe in personal salvation not political action. "We do not believe in class war and revolution (but rather in collaboration through conflict); we do not believe in massive class movements based only on material interests but only in the quality of individual personalities developed through living/learning experiences."

The heretics are the Laingians who—it has to be said more in sorrow than in anger—have fallen into grievous error, despite the fact that Laing was one of the Humanistic Psychologists' Early Fathers, whose texts can still be read with profit. (The role of Christ must, it seems, be assigned to Moreno, a Viennese near-contemporary of Freud's and the inventor of psychodrama.) "No believed in play, laughter, spontaneity and action."

The Laingians can, fortunately for all those who are heavily laden and seeking after the Truth, be recognized instantly by the fact that in their so-called group therapy meetings, everyone sits round on chairs, the therapists pretend to be just like their clients

and refuse to do any therapy—liturgical deviations which symbolize two heresies; that the therapist is on the same level as anyone else, and that the body is not important.

So far as I can discover, this is not a fair or accurate account of the Laingian approach, and Rowan's regrettably dismissive attitude towards the Laingians is only one of several pieces of evidence provided by his book that the counter-culture resembles dissenting Christianity and the extreme left in possessing an inbuilt tendency to fissions based on what to outsiders seem trivial differences in dogma and liturgical practice.

In general, Rowan's book is an extraordinary mixture of warmth, generosity, good intentions, cant and gobbledegook. Like almost all counter-culture writings it lacks any sense of either the tragic or the past. Its optimism and its faith in man's capacity for joy and growth is achieved at the price of ignoring the fact that we all age and die and know that we are going to do so, while its account of the beginnings of the Humanistic Psychology movement in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s totally ignores out of which it arose, and the extent to which it is a continuation of an important strand in the social and religious history of America (and, indeed, of Christian civilization as a whole).

It is also silent about the ecumenism of the movement itself, which is a pity: it would have been instructive to learn something about, for instance, the findings of the Esalen Institute, Humanistic Psychology's academic Mecca in California.



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# Forgot to paint them white?

Ronald Fletcher argues for a non-racial society

**White Media in Black Britain: A critical look at the role of the media in race relations today.** Edited by Charles Husband. Arrow Books 95p. 0 09 912220 0.

It might seem an odd, perverse, even a discriminatory title. Perhaps it would be better and more logically correct just to say "The Minority Show". Also, to get rid of the insidious sexual implications, at least 50 per cent of the men should be white and 50 per cent of the women black. But... no! What we need now is positive discrimination. We should emphasize the superiority of the inferiority scale of "black values" and "white values", so have all the men white and all the women black. Only then might we move towards a multi-racial society, let us note, a non-racial society.

This is the kind of argument that comes out of *White Media in Black Britain*. Here we are again the black and white of race relations in Britain—this time in the study of mass-communications. Once again the book is driven into the vulnerable sides of the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission: both lacking in real teeth and "conservative and compromised from the start". On the basis of a content analysis

of some newspapers and other data, we are told that we are prone to "selective perception" and that racist beliefs are endemic among "the white native population" in Britain. But does this not itself smack of an incredible degree of selective perception?—or a more primitive condition of sheer colour-blindness?

I am continually meeting red-brown Latins (Italians) who cannot stand blacks wherever they come from. I meet chocolate-brown Africans who cannot bear pallid-black Indians. I am continually meeting yellow orientals who find yellow orientals distasteful. And I even encounter grey-faced Scots who (though compelled to hide it under a veil of decent politeness) obviously cannot bear the sight of upright, grey-checked Anglo-Saxons, of whom they seem perpetually and exceptionally jealous.

It is a colourful, complex picture, and the one thing above all that any social scientist must say for certain is that you cannot come to any black and white conclusion about it. Indeed, these two words ought to be struck from our public language, especially from our elaborated code in which these misguided activists will insist on trying to write. Clearly, what we now need is a polychromatic scale with meniscular gradations—like the Registrar General's scale of Social Classes—then we can all talk about Grade 2

or Grade 5 without really knowing what we are talking about unless we look it up. This new collection offers articles on theatre (on creating a "Black Theatre" in Britain), children's media, humour, television, journalism, and the unmet expectations of a Marxist piece which pokes at the "balanced" White View. Much of serious truth is said about what we all now know up to the hilt: namely that prejudice stalks all these fields, as it does other fields of social behaviour. But the real question is what to do about it, and this book does little but over-simplify the issue and propose solutions which are jejune not only in their conceptions of social fact, but also—and more especially—in their conception of social justice.

The over-simplification lies in the "Black and White" syndrome. It is surely plain—after about 30 seconds of searching thought—that the many features which characterize distinctive cultural groups in society (religious beliefs, rituals, traditions, patterns of social life, speech, dress, manner, custom, etc.) are not so much indicated by, or alone reduced to, this one criterion of "colour".

But the naivety is even more marked in the proposed solutions. It is argued, for example, that given the preponderance of "white values" perpetuated by "white" employees in the media there should be a positive discrimination

on the side of "black values" and "black" employees. But once the complexity of cultural groupings in society is recognized, the idea that social justice requires a proportional representation of each of them on the stuff of any theatre, newspaper, or television company, is simply ludicrous. Should we have a proportional representation of Scots, Jews, Germans, Colts, Slavs, and others with distinctive aboriginal hues? What could be the point of such an exercise? It is—the activists tell us—to change the perception of Britain as "a white society that has black immigrants" to that of a "multi-racial society with black and white citizens".

But this, surely, is where the "Black and White" of it is so wrong-headed. If I may, in the thick of all this activism, refer to Aristotle—a pale-brown classical Greek—one principle of social justice is that the claims and counter-claims of all citizens should be equally considered, and then treated according to relevant differences. We do not therefore want a multi-racial society where "black" is such a dubious category. We want a society of citizens, containing cultural groups of many kinds, and among whom "colour"—though conspicuous—is, in fact, the least relevant factor in the reciprocal consideration of claims. Those who demand the injustices which have accrued about the con-

cept and percept of "race" do not first rid themselves of their stereotypes, and then bend all their power not to emphasizing, but eliminating, "colour" as a relevant factor. They might also spend a month or two catching up on Aristotle and John Stuart Mill, and then, if they are sensibly minded, they might think of the humanity and justice rather than intensification of money which can solve nothing. I cannot, however, resist the temptation of closing with a mention of one kind of discrimination which (we are told) is imbedded in our primary schools: the probability that they will be a very simple aim to stay at school. Our seven authors, for much of the time, are also concerned with limited ambitions. Robin Barrow proves that the head's role is simply to run a school and that his chief qualification is "philosophical competence", that is to say, the ability to make sensible decisions. This is laborious stuff, as he admits.

Which brings me to my chief criticism. Why do educationalists write so badly? They should know better. To operationalize these outcomes in terms of behavioural objectives. The professional-administrator, it is argued, is uniquely capable of achieving accommodation between the organization's emphasis on supercilious control and the professional's desire for colleague control. When the chips are down and an apparently insoluble jam appears, the chief executive like a prophet and general manager, in our own century, is Arnold's influence has if anything increased. Even in comprehensive

**The Role of the Head.** Edited by R. S. Pater. Hurdley and Kegan Paul £2.95. 7100 8119 X.

Allington of Eton was once asked by a parent, "Headmaster, what exactly are you educating my son for?" "Health, mind!" he replied. It was a good question—in fact, the question which every educationist has to face. Nowadays, few would agree with Allington's answer, or would quarrel with H. C. Colgate, one of the contributors to *The Role of the Head*, who tries to prepare his pupils for life—so far as the probability that they will be required to stay at school during their career, for example.

This is fine as far as it goes, though there should perhaps be more to education than this. In his thoughtful introduction Professor R. S. Pater rejects both the paternalism of the nineteenth-century headmaster, concerned with his pupils' moral progress, and also the fashionable idea of a manager running his school as if it was an industry. It is there, then, a conception of a head which is neither paternalistic nor managerial? The seven authors whose interesting and thought-provoking essays are published here do not produce a satisfactory answer. Nor is this surprising. G. Hornbaum and William Taylor both investigate the historical evolution of the headmaster's role. They show how in the nineteenth century the head of a school was often a strange mixture of Hebrew prophet and general manager. In our own century, Arnold's influence has if anything increased. Even in comprehensive

## Are we teaching, or playing God?

Richard Wilkinson on headmasters

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**The German Question 1945-1973.** Continuity in Change. By J. K. Sower. Blackwell University Press in association with Crosby Lockwood Staples £12.00. 258 96963 6.

Dr Sower's stated aim in writing this book is to "comply with requests by students specializing in the German political and social order for a succinct reference work on the underlying features of the German Question". With just over 100 pages the book may not be the concise student's idea of concision (its price certainly does not encourage it to be), but it is a well-written, often unorthodox, and well-documented survey of a well-known subject without doubt full of the student's intention of providing further study and specialisation.

The teacher, on the other hand, should find this book refreshing, particularly in view of the topicality it achieves, with two useful

prescripts taking the work as far

as Holmut Schmidt's state-of-the-nation speech in January 30, 1975.

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# CATALOGUE

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# Frame-up with plenty of accessories

by Elizabeth Matterson

Brio Playground Equipment  
En-tout-cas Ltd, Syston, Leicester,  
LE17 8NP.

Most people associate En-tout-cas with tennis courts, sports equipment and playground equipment, but the company also have an interest in the children's see-saws and slides found in so many parks.

Last autumn they started to sell wooden play units designed and made by the Swedish firm of Brio. In the relatively short time since then sales have been pleasing and a good deal of interest has been shown in this new type of play material.

Basically the units are climbing frames on a massive scale to which accessories may be added. They can be as large as space and finance allow. There are 37 models to choose from, varying in size from 2m by 2m to 10m by 9m, some of them several "storeys" high and there is also the possibility of combining models and different accessories.

The accessory list includes a springboard, ladder, roof pieces, wall units, sumersault bars, swings made from old car tyres mounted on galvanneal chains, rope ladders, ladders, wall bars, balancing beams, climbing ropes, boarding nets, a huge hammock which may also be used as a bridge or water splash and three sizes of very new slides. These are wide enough to take one child at a time.

With this variety of suggested units it should be possible to find one to suit every need. En-tout-cas would be willing, however, to advise on variations and additions to these units. As they are provided in kit form any variation can be built in

as the frame is erected.

There has always been a dichotomy of opinion regarding the relative advantages and disadvantages of wooden versus metal equipment. Many local authorities could, and do, quote instances of vandalism and deterioration of both materials. En-tout-cas emphasize the quality of the timber used and the method of construction.

The Swedes originally produced this equipment using untreated, slow-grown spruce which wore well, but three years ago, they started to use laminated, spliced spruce which is heat treated under pressure to provide beams suitable for building sports stadiums and swimming tanks. The high standard is maintained by checks on each batch of processed wood produced.

Even in our damp climate the wood should be more than adequate. No treatment or maintenance should be necessary and though "shakes" or weathering cracks may appear, these are superficial and should not affect the strength of the beam.

The kits are prepared with holes already drilled in the beams to take countersunk nuts and bolts (these could be filled over once the bolt is fixed) and a scale model is loaned with each unit to show how it should be put up. No special installation or ground preparation is necessary although En-tout-cas suggest setting the frame on a sand or small gravel base to give at least two or three metres extra space all round the unit.

Common sense handyman skill and some strong-armed lifting should be enough for bolting the unit together. The only extra work is the use of a drill to fasten on the accessories such as ladders, wall

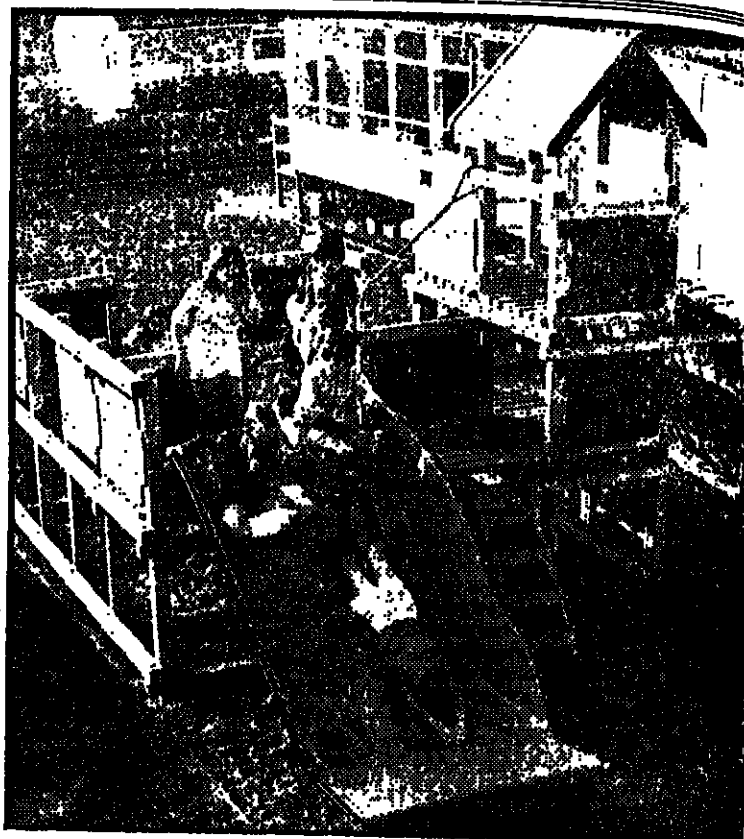
bars, etc, since the placing of these is a matter of choice. After the unit has been put together, only routine checking to make sure that ropes, nets, hammocks and ladders are still secure should be necessary. At the moment there is great concern about how safe playground equipment and play areas are. The said base of this equipment plus lack of moving parts, splinter free wood surface and simple but sound construction and the fact that all parts are visible should reassure any authority which is looking into this problem.

Obviously, when children use any type of equipment their own actions can lead to potential danger. During a short observation of children playing on one of the units one boy idly twisted a rope half round his neck and leaned over one of the towers to see what was happening below. This same situation could be seen in any adventure playground. The rope, however, was thick and not very flexible—the would have had to be very determined to tie a knot or even wind it tightly round himself. One of the greatest dangers probably lies in some manufacturer trying to copy these designs in inferior materials.

And the cost of a unit, which provides little more scope than the conventional climbing frames, costs £500. The largest price quoted for a single unit, which includes many accessories, is £3,600. Both prices include delivery within the United Kingdom but VAT. For a school PTA this would be daunting to say the least. But local authorities and commercial enterprises who budget in thousands might compare these costs with that of conventional playground equipment which needs to be expertly installed and expensively maintained.

It should be remembered that these units could probably provide much more scope for activity and imagination for a wider age range of more children than swings, roundabouts, rocking horses and slides. The possibility of re-arranging and adding units should also be attractive; once converted, playgrounds are installed it is expensive to change them.

There has been enough experience of this equipment in Sweden to be fairly sure that the children, at least, will regard them enthusiastically. A visit to a primary school in Leicestershire, where a medium size unit has been installed, bore



this out. The school is one of those establishments where enthusiasm, purposeful activity and good relationships can be sensed from the front door.

A large group of mixed age range children including quite hefty lads and little girls who had only been at the school for a few days jumped at the chance of showing off the equipment. Every part including the ladder, medium size slide, towers, beams, ropes, scrambling net and especially the hammock were well used. The question of whether children develop confidence and skill in using it was partly answered by one boy. He took quite a long time positioning himself on the scrambling net, was at great pains to get his hand and arm position just right then did a complicated back twisting somersault. "Done it," he said—with great satisfaction.

On being hailed by another larger boy from the top of the roof of the lookout tower the teacher with the group said this was the first time this particular child had managed to get there. Obviously knowing his children well he was able to point out another "rather timid" girl who, with the help of a climbing rope was being quite adventurous in her progression round the unit.

Others enjoyed jumping into the hammock from the top tower and it became quite crowded with any visible ill effects. The large children moved off to give the smaller new girls who had been enjoying the slide started using the hammock in the same way. The were quite emphatic that they liked the hammock best.

It would be possible to organize use of the equipment so that could serve for some physical education activities, but perhaps its greatest advantage is in giving children the opportunity to do what they want to do at their own pace. It is doubtful though, whether interest could be maintained for a number of years. The children become the more aware of their own they like to bring to their play, and one can see many possibilities for different types of play for different age groups and different situations.

Units have already been set up in various parts of the country and arrangements can be made through En-tout-cas to see them in situ. In addition, the literature which describes the units (also available from En-tout-cas) contains a good deal of useful information.

## 'Dull would he be of soul'

by Roy Blatchford

Readings from English Literature  
By John Verdin and Mary Hamilton.  
Language and Literature  
Recordings, £3.50.

John Verdin has selected his passages for reading with three principal objectives: each should be logically complete and capable of providing interest and pleasure to the listener; they should convey something of the richness and variety of the language; and they should come from a work of sufficiently wide appeal that it has been widely translated.

It is, therefore, a sad irony that the readings emerge with a dull monotony. Indeed, "dull would he be of soul" if a student were to wade to the "trite, recitation Bridge" or "Browning's 'Home Thoughts from Abroad'." "Home Henry V's Saint Crispin's Day speech at Agincourt is a poor and derivative echo of Laurence Olivier's filmed delivery.

As the availability of the pieces

in translation is stated as important, it is safe to assume that foreign students of English literature are the intended market for this cassette. It is a pity that then, after having selected the rich narrative of Dickens and Walter Scott, the readers have nowhere captured these authors' essential humour and romantic imaginings. Thumb-nail biographical sketches aside, no attempt has been made to connect the separate philosophies of the writers and the social contexts in which they were working.

This hastily collated and muted tape is complemented by the accompanying booklet: all the spoken word is printed, with reading and text not infrequently in variance. Explanatory annotations, in its assumed level of understanding, Scott will need "dullness," "steads" and "tumult," "dimpling" while "a domestic" go unremarked.

The Greater Manchester Council have published a resource pack on the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester. It is made up of 10 information sheets on aspects of the history, geography, industry, of the area, a map and a chart. The area has a fascinating history and plenty of important local figures, such as Cobden and Bright,

Ideas,  
argument, experiences,  
research

## Collecting brickbats

Harry Stanton

The plea by Dame Margaret Miles to end the practice of using the troubles of society as a weapon to attack schools will be welcomed by teachers. Hardly a day goes by without some politician or minor celebrity taking a public swipe at education.

To be an expert on education needs no qualifications. It seems that anybody who has attended school considers himself to be one. I wonder if the medical profession suffers from the same problems? Does every patient who has been in hospital feel qualified to comment on drug therapy or neurosurgery?

Education collects the brickbats from all sides. Politicians make great organizational changes at the stroke of a pen, leaving schools to deal with the problems and the biased criticism of the opposition.

Recently, a certain blood lust has arisen and schools have been designated as fair game. Canon Warburton, in Nottinghamshire, declared that thousands of children were being deprived of a decent education—but failed to support his case with a single fact. That well known educationist, Hughie Green, put his part in, and somewhat correlated a relationship between the Balcombe Street siege and comprehensive education. Nicholas Winterton, the MP for Macclesfield, wildly claimed that progressive education results in the murdering of the child's mind.

The worst of the offenders is the Daily Mail, with its constant supply of the so-called Black Papers. Only a few of the Black Paperites can be considered experts in the field of education and this is demonstrated when they thrash around and write such nonsense as "The status of the classroom teacher is reduced by the fact that only apparent failures remain the only apparent failures."

When the level of intelligent argument reaches such depths it is not

surprising to discover the distorted treatment of their statistical sources.

The findings of the National Foundation for Educational Research were firmly quoted in the last Black Paper, but as the NFER research findings were not always fairly or accurately presented, and the conclusions drawn from them are frequently in contradiction with those in the cited reports.

Perhaps the most ingenious of their assertions came when they quoted a piece of non-existent research which they claimed had been done by the NFER.

These self appointed judges are dealing with the politics of fear. They play upon the anxieties of people who imply danger to that which folk cherish most—their children.

The schools of today are evolving as methods and attitudes change. The benefit can be seen by reference to the Department of Education's statistics. Few people realize that since the war, the number of children leaving school with qualifications to enter university has doubled every 10 years. Standards, therefore, cannot be deteriorating.

Of course, such a creaming off into the universities and colleges reduces the number of intelligent young people available to work in shops, offices and industry. The need for labour is still there, and the places have to be taken up by the less able. This causes consternation to the employers, who start to complain about falling standards.

The Bullock report recently refuted any allegations about declining standards. It is true that the standards of reading are not getting any better, but somewhere there has to be a limit. As in the Olympics, once a high standard has been reached, any improvement can only be marginal, otherwise in a few years time we shall expect six-year-olds to have a reading age of 10.

Much of the criticism aimed at schools comes from those who were taught differently. Things have changed. For instance, few teachers would entertain the old, unproductive method of reading round the class. Today, children embark

on an individualized reading programme.

Each child progresses to the best of his or her ability, neither suffering from the frustration of waiting for the slower ones to catch up nor being dragged along in total incomprehension.

More than ever it is being realized that each child is unique and that talents and abilities are not equal or indeed comparable.

Such a progressive viewpoint has made British primary education the envy of the world. Our critics see it as permissive, but teachers are responsible people and education will progress despite the wallings of the intellectual Cassandra who sees change as a threat to their consensual positions.

We must beware. As George Cooke, the chief education officer of Lincolnshire, said recently: "Much that is best in education can be destroyed by persistent, spiteful and ill-informed attacks upon the morale of the people involved."

Harry Stanton is headmaster of Mellors Primary School, Radford, Nottingham.

## Making inroads

Derek Merrill  
and John Freeman

Most school subjects seem to take their contents as if from another world, although teachers and bodies like the Schools Council call for greater relevance in the curriculum.

For subjects, however, often stumble over the word relevance, and we rack our brains for an interesting and stimulating lesson. Instead of reading the latest curriculum development reports, or using the latest pack material, why not look at your local paper?

Schools frequently underestimate their importance in the community. Students and teachers too often lead a double life, where school is for education and life begins at 3.30. Schools must be accountable to the community, not just to provide future employees, even if they are

passively aware, but also to produce active participants. It is not enough to have opinions of the world echoing from the classroom walls. Those opinions must be heard in the community, with possibilities for action.

We live in a world where survival is threatened, whatever your politics, religion or race. These threats are not simply out there in the wider world, but often occur locally. This is where children are directly affected, but present education does not equip them to take action.

Last year, our local newspaper published plans of a proposed road scheme. It took the shape of a one-way road which threatened the school and the community. It would not only obliterate the school garden but would also pass five metres from school buildings. More and faster traffic would be attracted to a convenient through route to the M4, in one of the most densely populated areas of London.

Staff and students, backed by the parent-teacher association, started a campaign with arguments on pollution, traffic hazards, preservation of communities and alternative proposals.

We believe this campaign has had some interesting implications for education. Most important, perhaps, was the sensitivity and concern shown by the students for their environment. Too often, we have taken well-prepared lessons of pack material, hoping to generate another cause for concern. Perhaps a spark, but never a fire. The writing has the gloss of the colour supplement and the pictures reflect another far-off world.

On this occasion, the material was produced by the children in the form of poems, articles and pictures, which have now been produced in a booklet, *It's Hard Being a Cowboy in Southall*.

Southall is a multi-cultural community and lacks a tradition of public debate and protest on local issues. Yet our school took a campaign into the community, spreading information by word of mouth, leaflets, letters to the press and council with a petition and a display. It is easy to forget that a school is not merely a static institution but a place where people from all parts of the local area

congregate, and these people can spread ideas widely.

For the children the real satisfaction came not with a red pen mark in their books, but from a local radio interview, a piece in the *Evening Standard*, seeing their photographs in the local paper, receiving replies to their letters, collecting signatures for the petition and handing it in to the town hall. It seemed as if their voice was being heard.

Once this carnival was over the difficulty was how to make a positive, long-term contribution to the community. The best vehicle we found was to develop a Mode 3 C.E.E. in community and environmental studies. We hope to go beyond the compliant civics course and the somewhat patronizing visit to the local library, for as well as studying formal and informal organizations in the community the students will work closely with council departments and local pressure groups.

They will seek out, and act upon, local issues, reply to prospective council plans for Southall and form local branches of national environmental organizations—for example, the Schools Eco-Action Group. We foresee further action weeks, exhibitions and the circulation of ideas through the local media and to local councillors. In this way students may even take part in planning.

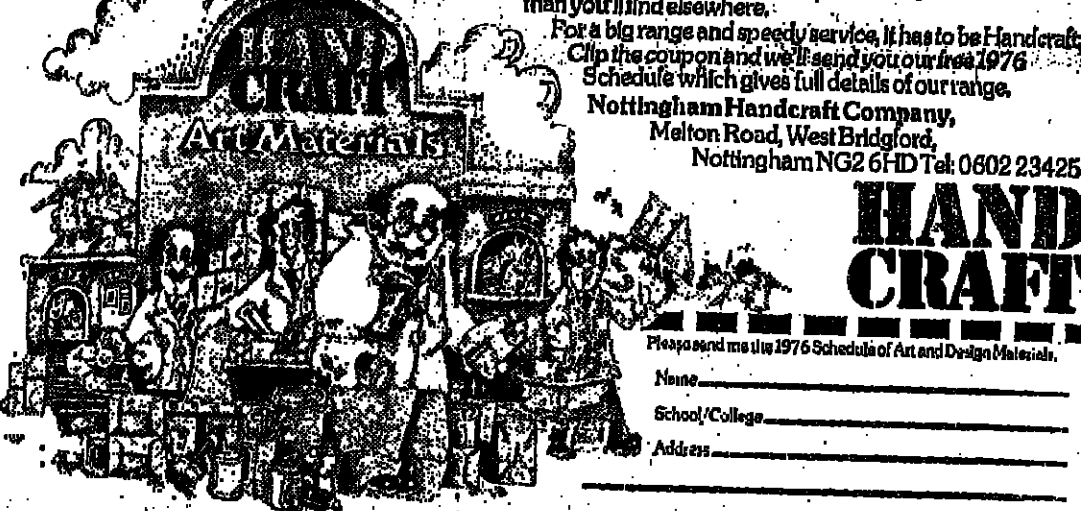
A feature of the course will be to make students realize that local events are linked to wider environmental issues; for example, worldwide urban expansion with overcrowding in Southall, or exhaustion of world oil supplies. We hope students will make sense of their environment and make informed decisions as to what sort of community they would like to live in.

Derek Merrill and John Freeman teach at Featherstone High School, Southall, London.

*It's Hard Being a Cowboy in Southall* and copies of the proposed Mode 3 (22p inc postage and packing) are available from Anne Johnson (care of Southall Writers' Group, Teachers' Centre, Ealing, Northern Sports Centre, Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex).

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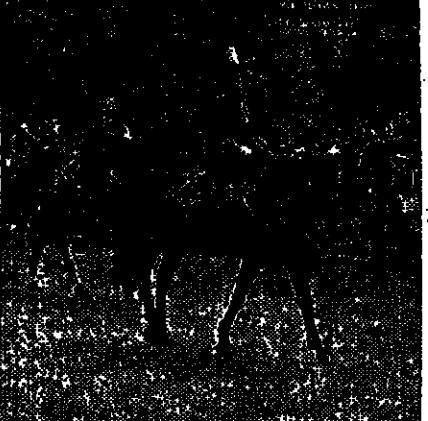
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## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BASILDON and BRENTWOOD AREA

### Beauchamps School

Wickford (Roll 1437) Group 12

#### HEAD

for this nine-form entry 11-18 comprehensive school, from 1 January, 1977.

Generous grants for removal, lodging and disturbance expenses are payable in approved cases. Closing date: 18th June, 1976.

Application forms and further details of this post may be obtained from the County Education Officer, P.O. Box 47, Threadneedle House, Market Road, Chelmsford.

## Cheshire

HALTON DISTRICT  
Runcorn Norton Priory Convent  
Comprehensive School (Group 12)

### Head Teacher

Required January 1977 for this purpose built 10 i.e. co-educational Comprehensive School opened 1972, the first of four comprehensive schools to serve Runcorn New Town. Roll 1,800. Age range 11-18 years. Wide range of C.S.E. and 'O' level courses established and developing Sixth Form.

School located adjacent to Town Park, excellent accommodation, with Joint Use Sports Centre adjacent. Assistance with removal expenses and payment of disturbance allowance in accordance with Authority's Scheme.

Application forms and further particulars (s.a.s. please) obtainable from District Education Officer, Education Department, Grosvenor House, Shopping City, Runcorn, to be returned by 28 June, 1976.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Applications are invited for the following

### HEADSHIP

tenable from the beginning of Spring Term, 1977

### WESTWOOD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Spurgeon Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.19

Salary: Head Teacher Group 8 plus a London Area Allowance of £297 and additional payment of £312.

The Authority's scheme for Secondary Education in maintained schools provides for comprehensive education in a varied system.

This five-form entry, 11-14 High School is situated in the North of the Borough. Pupils transfer to the Lady Edridge High School for Girls (14-18) at age of 14.

Reasonable removal expenses will be reimbursed (details on request).

Application forms and further details of the post may be obtained from the Director of Education (TAS), Education Department, Tabernacle House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1TP, to whom completed forms must be returned by Friday, 18th June, 1976.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Applications are invited for the following

### HEADSHIP

tenable from 1st January, 1977

### FAIRCHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Fairchild's Avenue, New Addington, Surrey

Salary: Head Teacher Group 11 and a London Area Allowance of £267 is payable

The Authority's scheme for Secondary Education in maintained schools provides for comprehensive education in a varied system.

This eight-form entry 11-16 mixed High School is situated in the south-west of the Borough. Pupils can at age 16 transfer to the Croydon College of Design and Technology.

Reasonable removal expenses will be reimbursed (details on request).

Application forms and further details of the post may be obtained from the Director of Education (TAS), Education Department, Tabernacle House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1TP, to whom completed forms must be returned by Friday, 18th June, 1976.

## MIDDLESEX Scale 2 Posts continued

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## DEVON Scale 2 Posts continued

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# The expanding box

Peter Whitaker on new developments in communications using the television

Developments in electronic technology applied to communications and data processing is a most important and exciting growth area. They have enabled sophisticated processes to be carried out by compact electronic circuits which can be mass produced at a price undreamed of a few decades ago. The most obvious examples are pocket calculators and electronic watches. The same technology which produced the micro miniaturization of the circuits in these devices has had an impact on computers and equipment for data processing.

One of the most commonplace pieces of complex electronic equipment is the television receiver. Until recently developments in television receivers, apart from colour, have been unspectacular. However a new development has been the use of systems to exploit the receiver as a data display terminal. Here the television receiver does not display conventional pictures but pages of text, numerical data, or even simple graphics. The additional electronic circuits needed for the receiver to function this way are extremely complex, and recent developments in electronic circuit technology have enabled the circuits to be produced in an acceptable size and at a reasonable cost.

The first systems to use the television receiver as a data display terminal were the broadcast Teletext systems of the BBC and IBA (the CEEFAX and ORACLE systems respectively). These use the spare time in some of the lines in the television display which are not used to show picture information. Specially coded digital signals are transmitted during these lines. The additional electronic circuits in the special television receivers convert the signals into alphabetical or numerical characters for display.

Eventually eight "magazines" would be transmitted, each with 100 pages. Each page has a title line, followed by up to 23 lines of text, each of 40 characters. The characters can be upper or lower case letters, numerals or other symbols as used in normal type. Facilities include the ability to "flash" characters, a choice of seven colours, boxing of words and a simple form of graphics.

As four rows of characters are transmitted with each television picture frame (in 1/25 second) a page of text is transmitted in just under 0.25 second. The pages of a magazine are transmitted sequentially and takes about 2 seconds to cycle whole magazine.

The text can be displayed alone as a sub-title to a picture, or superimposed over the whole picture. Pages are normally selected by their reference number (by a dial on the receiver) but certain pages are transmitted at set times only. These can be accepted auto-

matically by time control and stored for later viewing.

Some of the proposed uses for this data transmission system are to display information on news, sport, television and radio programmes, weather, holidays and travel, leisure activities, cinema and theatre programmes, rail and bus timetables, record and book lists, public advice, police information and tourist guides.

In this role the television receiver is being used as a passive display terminal, the information bank is limited (800 pages) and determined by the broadcasting organizations. Its main advantage is its ability to display up-to-date information on topics which are changing rapidly.

The Post Office Viewdata system offers many more facilities and seems to have considerable educational potential. In that it uses the domestic television receiver as a data terminal it is similar to Teletext (the display parameters and electronic circuits in the receiver are the same) but its strength is that it uses the existing public telephone system to connect the television receiver to a nationwide network of computer data banks.

The basic terminal consists of the television receiver incorporating the data processing circuits, as needed for Teletext, circuits to connect the receiver to the telephone line, the telephone itself and a keypad with 12 keys (0 to 9, \* and #). More advanced keypads will also carry a full set of alphanumeric keys as on a typewriter keyboard.

Because the data travelling between the computer and the receiver has exclusive use of the line is transmitted continuously. However, the low signal transmission rate over the telephone lines means that a complete page takes about nine seconds to transmit. But as the system is not cyclic like Teletext this time of nine seconds (plus about three seconds "burst delay time") is the time to access and display one page.

Local computer data banks could hold 250,000 to 500,000 pages of information. Any of these pages can be accessed in less than 12 seconds. The local computers would be linked to regional computers, which in turn would be linked to national computers. General data would be held locally and more specialized data at regional or national level.

One obvious difficulty with such a large data bank is indexing. Information is stored in a self-indexing "tree" structure where selection is made at each level of the tree until the required depth is reached. Any page can be accessed directly if the page reference number is known.

Some interesting additional facilities are possible. One is to record

the data signals on an audiotape recorder. A 60-minute audiotape could hold over 300 pages of data for display at any time. Alternatively a hard copy printer could be added to make a permanent record of pages.

As well as general information from professional information suppliers as with Teletext, Viewdata can also handle stored information to be passed from one user to another. As the telephone circuit link is two-way the system is fully interactive. That is, a user can put data into the data bank or respond to information in it.

The applications are almost endless when one considers the immense storage capacity available and the ability to use the store in a fully interactive two-way mode. An advanced calculator service or even simple computing services could be made available.

An educational use for the system could be in the Open University, the Open College (or even the Open School?). Distant learners could be presented with information or work assignments through the television. Their requests for information or responses to assignments would be sent in the computer data bank through the keypad. For work assignments the responses could be marked and, if required, the results displayed to the student. There seems no reason why computer controlled programmed learning systems should not be built around the Viewdata system.

Another educational use is in the area of professional re-training or updating; the concept of continuous or permanent education. The home is often the most convenient place in which to make such educational material available.

The philosophy of the Post Office Viewdata is that they are providing a system for others to use; they are not concerned with information or software. It is hoped that time used on the local data bank will be charged at local telephone call rate. In some special cases people requesting information need not be charged, the costs being borne by the organization which provides the information. An obvious example is advertising. It might be possible for the educational services to operate in the same way.

One obvious question: when will Viewdata be available? There is already a trial of the system in progress. A public trial starts in late 1977 and subject to satisfactory results the public service will begin in 1978. By that time the new generation of television receivers with incorporated data circuits will be available at prices not too much above the cost of normal colour receivers. At present only one manufacturer (Rank) is marketing a receiver with data circuits and it costs just over £1,000.

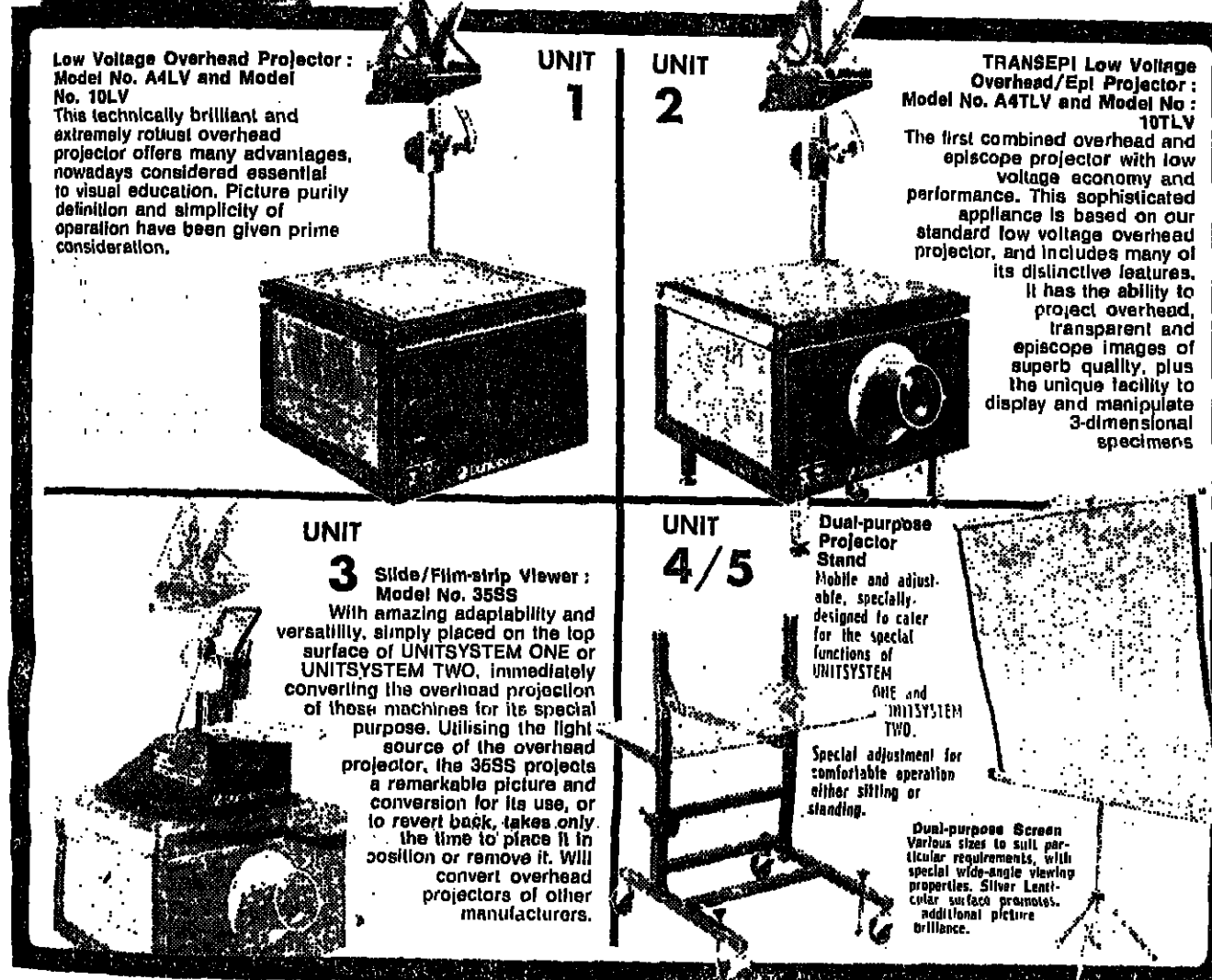
Dr P. D. Whitaker is director of the Television and Film Unit at Birmingham University.

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# Thinking provincial

Brian Hill on educational broadcasting in Alberta, Canada

The reputations of BBC and ITV as producers of first-class educational television are firmly established. There are many readily acknowledged successes in individual programme level and in terms of large-scale innovations. The Open University, for instance, is increasingly seen as a model for similar experiments throughout the world, and series such as the BBC's adult literacy, *On the Move*, are creating considerable excitement, particularly in North America.

The purpose of this article, however, is not to catalogue but to describe achievements, but to describe experience in a new development of educational broadcasting in Canada and to reflect on some of the implications for Britain.

The Canadians have learnt from harsh experience that the problems of running effective educational broadcasting at national and city level make the expenditure largely unjustified. The obvious advantages of radio and television as a teaching aid are not in dispute, but the formula for making broadcasts an integral and valuable resource for the learner have proved elusive. On a national scale you can lose involvement and contact; on a town scale you have the problems of finance and quality of production.

During the past three years the search for an improved system has led to the setting up of provincial educational broadcasting networks and initial claims made for their success are impressive. Success does not stem merely from the geographical fact of sitting, but, more important, from the range of activities and from the attitudes—generated as a result of the sitting decision—of producers and consumers. One such network is ACCESS, the Alberta Educational Communications Corporation, which has two centres of operation, in Calgary and

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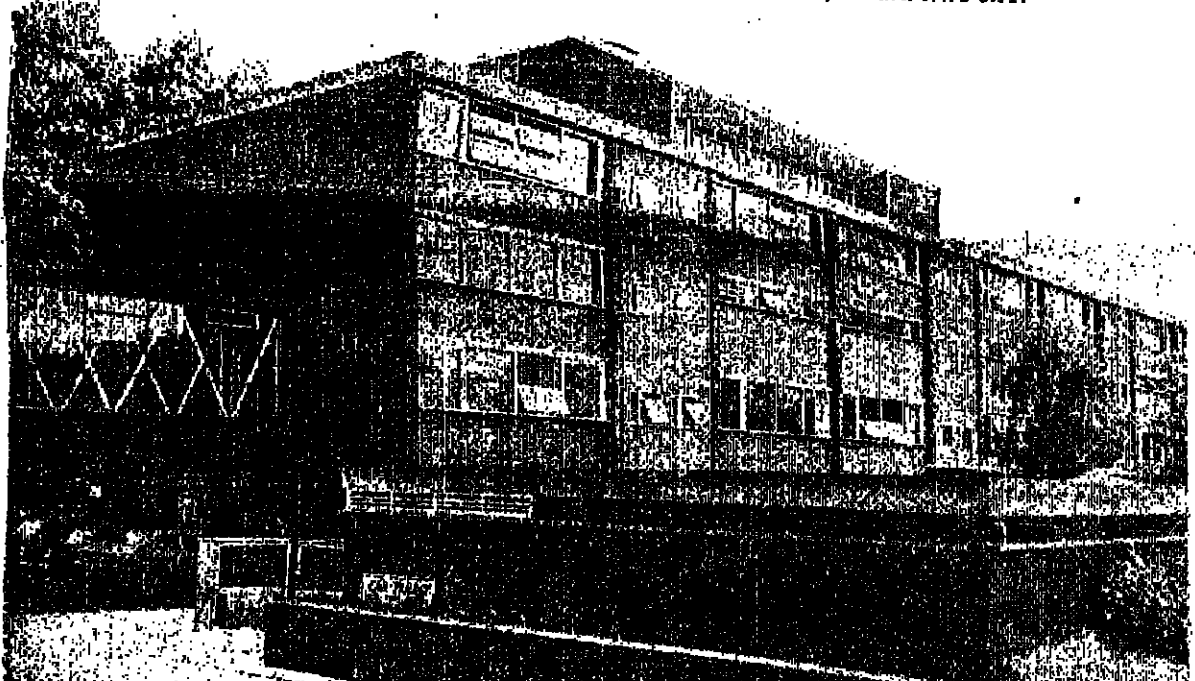
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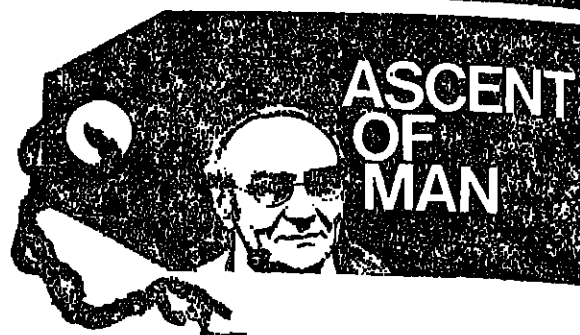
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ASCENT OF MAN



"Ascent of Man" and "Helen: A Woman of Today": illegal for sale but available for the cost of a videocassette in North America.

denance, in addition to producing specialist programmes.

Another key to ACCESS's success is that it does not consider itself just a provider of broadcasts, but rather of teaching resources; a situation not unlike the new ILEA media resources policy. In practice this means the provision of back-up materials which attempt to bridge the gap between producers and consumers.

Two examples from the current catalogue illustrate this and, incidentally, make the point that, while in Britain we are still struggling with archaic copyright laws, our own educational programmes, forbidden by law to us, are available at knock-down prices in North American teachers.

*Telen: A Woman of Today* (London: Weavers) is available on 13 60-minute videocassettes for about £120, including specially written teacher's manual, i.e. at something less than the cost of the empty videocassettes here. To accompany each programme are additional videocassettes: one 13 30-minute audio discussions between experts on matters arising from the original plays (the effect of a marriage break up on children; abortion within and outside marriage, etc.) or the same price a cassette, or, if preferred, 13 30-minute audio cassettes of these discussions for about 40p a cassette. Brodowski's *Ascent of Man* on 13 60-minute cassettes, including the BBC book and an ACCESS study manual is also available for £130.

The flexibility and freshness of approach are noticeable. There are no formally designated categories of educational and educational. ACCESS buys as much as it produces, itself, acting as the middle-man for successful series on other networks as well as making its own. Local organizations, such as news-papers, are brought into the act and persuaded to run a series of articles closely linked to television programmes.

Care is taken to divert publicity at the specific audience for each series. A comment on the problems of making British listeners aware of short intensive language courses for holidaymakers drew the reply: "Why not get the travel firms to cooperate and put information about the programmes in their holiday brochures?" Why not?

Regular checks on the impact of programmes are made in different ways. General information is provided by ringing 1,500 telephone subscribers in a three-stage random sample. Specific immediate information is got by paying a number of volunteers about £2 to fill in a three-page questionnaire on each programme or to the studios and paying them £5. There are, of course, some real

problems still to be solved by ACCESS. There is little evidence of long-term subject-based courses or coordinated depth. Few educational teaching links between radio and television seem to have been explored.

The whole operation is sited in different buildings and the changes of overiding "protocol" appear justified. Nevertheless, ACCESS is demonstrably an approach to the provision of broadcast resources from which some something to learn.

Direct comparisons are difficult to make but the overall deployment of our resources at present is useful. The overlapping functions of individual ITV companies and the BBC do not produce a more efficient educational broadcasting system which is unified in practice as well as in theory.

If we could assume a more coordinated approach, following Antennas, a feature should be an establishment, possibly by local authorities reorganizing existing resources, of county units. These might have a limited production capacity but would primarily be charged with the responsibility of getting maximum use from nationally produced broadcasts, with all the dubbing, local contacts, service training and audience research implications that implies. Teachers should feel in close touch with a county centre and one which really can meet their needs.

Given the build-up of county centres it should be possible to involve local colleges and universities in providing linked courses (university and extensive) to expand the trend already started by the BBC Further Education department. More emphasis could be placed on defining specialist audiences and on getting publicity to them.

More attention should also be devoted to research which builds up efficient and immediate links with the consumers, while the use of "educative" programmes for the benefit of the community should be cracked.

After sampling many educational systems, I remain convinced that educational broadcasting in Britain is still potentially in a class of its own. There is, however, increasing evidence that more effort on the part of the educational community is needed to attack this problem with the combined resources of the BBC, the broadcasting companies, teachers and advisers and to create an imaginative, workable, coordinated policy towards the educational potential of radio and television.

## Spur to improvement or cue for a decline?

A. H. Crocker argues that the standards of performance of compact cassette recorders are declining

The financial climate affects everything, and although it can sometimes remove the frivolous and lead to constructive revaluations, it can also cause reduction in standards. Since the compact cassette, with its narrow tape and very low tape speed, was introduced, taped sound quality has steadily improved. More recently, however, standards of performance have been lowered.

Competition over small, portable cassette recorders has caused the more reputable manufacturers to lose out to makers of less good and cheaper products. The cheaper products can often appear better because of some extra facility, usually of minimal importance or because of a more "glitzy" styling; but they are often inferior in performance.

For educational uses, minimum facility and performance requirements have been worked out by the Council for Educational Technology in the form of a user specification (USPEC 4). Of the cassette recorders which have complied with it, many are obsolete, and

their replacements fall short of the mark. Areas where recorders are failing include frequency response, which they can satisfactorily record and reproduce, and in sound volume given by the loudspeaker. Higher background noise levels relative to the desired sound are also more evident as are less stable tape speeds.

Built-in microphones are becoming more common, which is often cheaper than providing an external microphone with lead and plug. But stringent measures are not being taken to ensure that the internal microphone does not pick up mechanical noises from the recorder.

In schools, cassette recorders are mainly used for recording in project work, playback of learning programmes and recording and playback of language skills. Good sound quality is probably not of such great importance for the first, but for the second and third it is of prime importance.

It is for these critical requirements that the performance data in

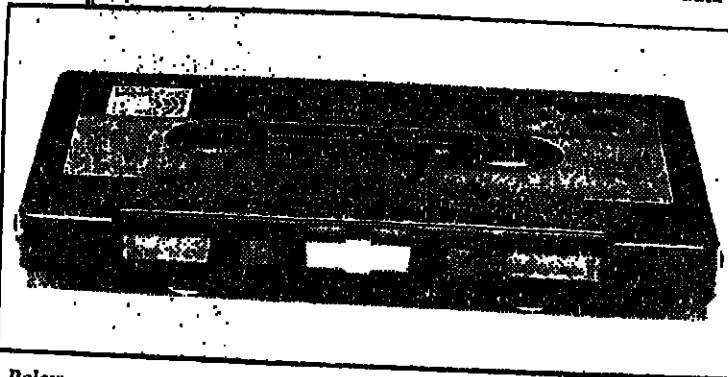
USPEC 4 were specified. Even so, it should be noted that some language teachers maintain that a better frequency response than that given in USPEC 4 is required for some foreign languages. Good sound quality is essential for a student to extract the information from a message or programme. If the quality is muddled or blurred, a less-motivated student may lose concentration, and even a well-motivated student is likely to become irritated.

When selecting a cassette recorder, do not be deceived by features such as automatic recording level, integral microphone, cue and review, auto-stop, automatic head cleaning indicators, etc. Some of these features are useful but should not be over-valued. For instance, it is cheaper for a manufacturer to provide automatic recording level only than to provide manual control only. An internal microphone can cost less than an external microphone. Cue and review and auto-stop are far from unique.

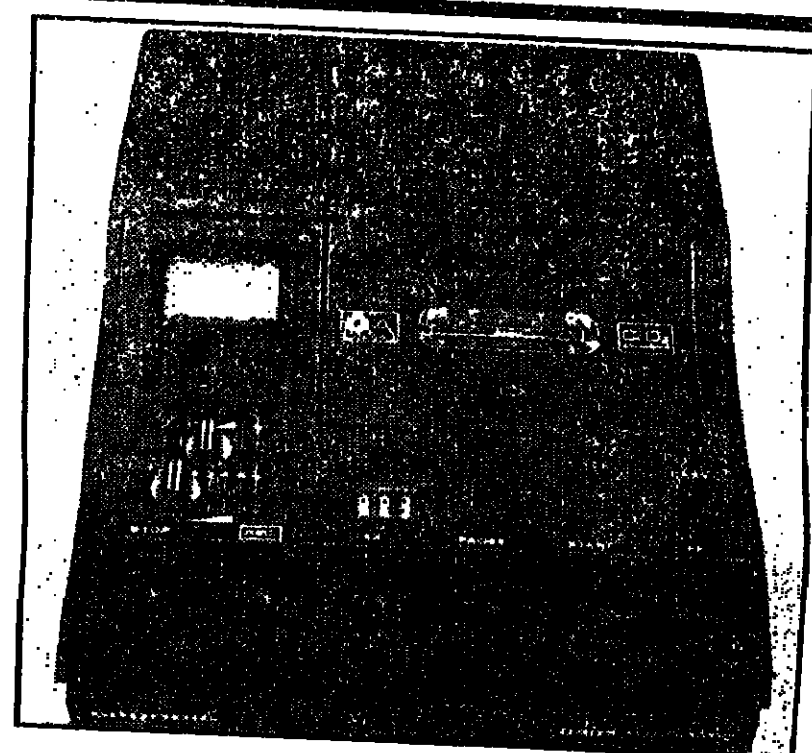
Look carefully at the price, and consider where the product has come from, and then think of the price of the cardboard box, of transport and of the hands through which it has passed, all of which need payment for their services. After all this, on a recorder costing £17-£25 there is not much left for the factory to use in manufacture. Also consider that 10 or 12 years ago we were paying £30-£50 for inexpensive tape-recorders.

A worthwhile cassette recorder will cost £50 or more and it is unlikely to be suitable for playing recordings to more than about 12 to 15 students at a time. For class use students must expect to pay more than £100.

Most cassette recorders are not



Below: a compact cassette. Above: the Grundig C403, one of the few recorders suitable for school use.



designed for school, but for use in the home. Often the purchaser of an inexpensive portable recorder wants it only as a sophisticated toy for the children.

The design and manufacture of school cassette recorders is relatively new. Many companies make schools sound equipment and show an interest in cassette recorders, but the cassette and drives handles the cassette and drives the tape has been the overriding problem. There are few reliable sources of competitively-priced deck mechanisms.

The first company to introduce a schools cassette recorder was Tundberg, of Norway. The mark one had some undesirable features, but the mark two was superb although quite expensive. Regrettably, it is no longer available. Two British companies—Goodsell and Coomber—now make cassette recorders using Japanese decks.

The former seems to be promising, but I have not yet seen the latter, except as an early prototype. Both these recorders are designed for classroom use, and should provide sufficient sound volume for a full class.

Another possibility of improving sound volume is to use a separate amplifier to boost the output of a small portable recorder. Care should be taken to ensure that the cassette recorder is of a good standard. Amplifiers with integral loudspeakers which are capable of filling a classroom with sound are made by Coomber, Clarke and Smith and Goodall.

Finally, a word of advice before selecting a recorder. Make a test recording and listen to its replay critically. Use speech and, if possible, have a colleague or friend on hand to judge the comparison between the original and the recording.

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## Through the eye of a camera

Terry Norris on film and photographic studies at Little Ilford School, Newham

Although examinations have been under fire as a form of assessment for some time, they remain one of the most common ways for new subjects to establish themselves in the school curriculum.

Since the new subject has to be allocated both capital and space on the timetable, perhaps at the expense of more traditional subject areas, it is reasonable that those affected by its inclusion—mainly the pupils, parents, and other teachers—should receive some explanation of what happens within the courses offered and what the benefits might be. What follows is a description of some of the work undertaken by the film and photographic studies department at Little Ilford School.

The Schools Council has proposed for 1981 the establishment of a single all-embracing examination at the age of 16-plus, but meanwhile there are two forms of examination available to the secondary school pupil of this age—the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) and the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary and Advanced level (O and A level GCE).

We run courses in photography leading to both examinations (also, incidentally, in film studies as well), the difference being that, the GCE course is more academically oriented.

The benefit of the CSE examination is that it is Mode 3—that is, the course is set and examined by the teachers who run it. Teachers can, therefore, structure the course and examination to suit the requirements of the students, the teachers themselves and the educational and social environment in which the students and teachers work.

The danger with this type of Mode 3 course and assessment is that it can lead to a lowering of standards, and in an attempt to avoid this an independent moderator is appointed to oversee assessment. There are other conditions operating within the photographic education movement which ensure that standards are maintained—conditions which are perhaps absent in more traditional subject areas.

● We at Little Ilford are fighting against the present status of photography as an easy option for the less able students, and we are trying to gain more respect for the subject's intellectual status.

● We also accept that the concepts which have to apply in the work

are of greater intellectual sophistication than those required to teach most other arts subjects. This is due mainly to the semiological foundations of the structure of our new subject.

● Because of the newness of the subject area the photography teacher is constantly forced to re-appraise and redefine the subject he is teaching in the light of new knowledge.

● The photography teacher can get aid and encouragement from the rest of the school, but the major agency for the promotion of photography in schools—the education group of the Royal Photographic Society, (Details from: 14 South Audley Street, London, W.1.) This group will probably best prosper in the future if they undertake to look critically at present teaching methods and search for new ways of presenting the subject.

**Image education**  
The impetus for introducing a course in image education (which every pupil in the school follows as a compulsory subject in the curriculum) came from disappointment with the standard of visual literacy exhibited by students in the upper school who were following courses in film study and photography.

Part of the problem with studying photography lies in the fact that, unlike virtually all other subjects offered by the curriculum, it is in an embryonic stage of development. Thus, while many other courses would cover five years, we were asking students to squeeze an equivalent amount of work, of a frequently higher standard, into a shorter time.

Our aim was, therefore, the provision of a foundation course in image study and we based our course on three important studies carried out over the past few years. The first is a paper by Jean-Marie Golay, *An Introduction to the Language of Image and Sound*. Golay's principle objectives are to teach the student to express himself through images and to allow the student to understand the language of image and sound.

The second paper, by Gail, is an analysis of a set of images of which are unsuitable for temporary school use, the value of Gail's work lies, however, in that his method of applied to images other than ones he has chosen.

The questions he raises about culturally determined reading of image can be asked of other images. One image Gailier uses, for example, is a close-up of a baby of about ten years old. He asks to his eyes and it is not from the information contained in the image exactly where he got from. The answer to the question "What is the boy's country of origin?" tends to vary according to the ethnic/cultural background of the person questioned.

The final paper, *The Rhetoric of the Image*, by Roland Barthes, discusses in detail the visual image in terms of the object contained in it and what the particular objects stand for. The value is that the method can be applied to other images.

The three papers combine to form the core of the course. Each member of the department adapts the materials to suit both himself and the students he is teaching. We will better placed to judge the value of the course when those present at the end of the fourth and fifth years are able to use the course's vocabulary in the GCE course.

The overall aims of the course (taken from Golay) are: to help the child to express himself through images; to order the image-content with his thinking; to create relationships between images; allow him to understand the language of images in the work of others; train his judgment in response to the image; enlarge and focus the child's vocabulary with regard to his experience.

**Practical Work**  
Much of the early part of photography courses consists of

principles and methods of visual communication. Emphasis is on the analysis of the nature of problems presented to the pupils with the results presented in both written and visual form.

The production, modification and control of the photographic image, including the practical factors influencing the visual quality of the final print, are linked to the basic conventions of photography. In this way we hope to teach the pupil to express himself through images—to give his thought visual expression—to order the image content of his thinking—to create relations between images.

An attempt is also made to improve the pupil's critical judgment in response to the image during practical work. Because the emphasis in this work must be on the search for clear and authentic expression rather than on formal aesthetic qualities, a certain amount of wastage should be accepted as normal.

Two publications have proved useful with practical photographic work for the examination candidates. They are *Photography in Schools*, by Robert Leggart, published by Fontana Press at £5 (hardback) and *Photography*, by Terry Norris, published by Nelson (in the Art and Design series) at 75p (paperback).

The intention of *Photography* is to introduce the reader to the exciting medium of photography, to describe the materials and equipment required for its practice, and to suggest some projects which will provide a basis of experience from which further work can proceed. It is a book of practical photography based on the idea that the subject is a varied and open-ended experience.

Terry Norris is head of the film and photographic studies department and Little Ilford School.



Left: setting up a shot in a classroom in Little Ilford School. Above and below: photographs by pupils at the school.



## Television at your own pace

Peter Copeland looks at some of the limitations of television in its present form and at a new invention which may help the situation

It now seems clear that television offers the greatest opportunity for the advancement of education since the introduction of printing by movable type. This much quoted statement was made by Dr J. C. Poolock in 1960.

However, while some educational benefit has been realized, television has not yet been exploited to the level envisaged by its early exponents. It is true that we have learned to discriminate between such aspects of television as entertainment and education: broadcast and cable; live and recorded; but though programmes for schools and colleges at the University have demonstrated the value of centralized educational broadcasting, the use of television otherwise has been less encouraging.

After seven years of operation, the cable system of LISA, was being used by a school audience of 15 per cent of the possible total (278, August 9, 1974). A similar network operating in Glasgow is now threatened with closure.

Video recorders have allowed broadcast programmes to be shown at more convenient times in many schools. In universities and colleges an attempt has been made to produce more original material. But for the few persistent lecturers who

have created viewable programmes, many more have become disenchanted with the process.

The students' experience of television has changed little, despite technological advances. Institutional selves on the broadcast format and some familiarity with the programme characters, the style of presentation has remained the same. The main development in the use of television as received by the student has been the lecturer's ability to control the start of the programme. But even this development assumes the teacher or lecturer has access to the machine and, much more to the point, knows how to use it.

Most equipment in this area is designed by engineers and is totally unsuitable for those who have not read the instructions or who lack technical ability. Since television technology is now about to expand into the three further divisions: programme, Teletext and Videodata, it is worth examining briefly how one characteristic of the medium has inhibited its educational application and how the arrival of the beyond era might now help change this.

At present video recording is the predominant method of storing television displayed programmes. But the video replay equipment available and the way it has been used in most educational institutions have placed it in the category of fixed pace media, with 16mm film and other forms of presentation which require the learner to hang on to every movement, diagram and word.

Implicit in the production of every television programme is an acceptance of the fact that once the information has been given there is no second chance. Thus every television programme has a built-in information presentation rate which unfortunately neither corresponds to the information digestion rate of every viewer nor to the digestion rate of any viewer for any length of time. The communication in the opening paragraph related the potential of television to the invention of print, but ironically it is in comparison with print that the limitations imposed by its fixed pace become most apparent.

Printed material has, a century ago, been the only medium of mass communication of ideas, chapters, paragraphs, appendices, indexes, etc. which allows the reader to choose



"The student's experience of television has changed little".

how he extracts information. Videotape requires information to be stored sequentially along its length. As with audiotape and film, the user has to examine a series of unwanted messages before arriving at the information. The display

Continued overleaf

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## Television news views

Christopher Griffin-Beale on the latest British Film

## Institute Television Monographs

Teachers eager to discuss contemporary television with their classes can find increasing support from schools television - particularly from ITV with *Viewpoint*, *The Messengers* and next summer with Yorkshire's *Looking at Television*. But beyond the notes for these series there is still little comparable background material for teachers. And so, the British Film Institute Television Monographs, whatever their faults, fulfil a valuable function.

The latest (from the Institute's Educational Advisory Service) is *Television News* by Richard Collins, senior lecturer in media studies at Central London Polytechnic, which investigates some dominant assumptions and practices governing the production of news on British television, particularly the traditional concept of impartiality.

Total impartiality is a chimera and its pursuit by television news actually masks an innate, unexamined bias towards the status quo: this radical critique, though hardly original, is usefully summarized here. Much in it may be persuasive, and the counter-arguments may be intellectually shoddy, but this case still needs arguing more closely, with fuller examination of the evidence than Collins has space for here.

Examining the history of broadcasting's impartiality, he discusses the much cited *locus classicus*, the BBC's coverage of the 1926 General Strike, rightly questioning whether it really demonstrates the BBC's independence of government. But he might have examined a later instance (more appropriately within the television age), the BBC's response to government pressure during the Suez crisis of 1956, where its independence, though limited, is arguably preferable to most existing alternatives.

News bulletins - from BBC News and ITN - are not television's only contribution to our information about the contemporary world, but Collins sometimes strays into discussing more generally how television conveys (in a newsmen's phrase) "what the viewer has no right to be unaware of". For instance, Collins examines two "gatekeepers" of television news, Robert Douglass and Michael Barratt, though Barratt works in current affairs, not specifically television news.

One might argue that the distinction in British television between news and current affairs reflects merely the triviality of traditional impartial organization, rather than an important difference in function and treatment. One might argue this, but I wouldn't and Collins doesn't.

If he sneaks *Nationwide* in, and extends his arguments beyond the confines of news bulletins, then he needs to consider investigative journalism, the first glimmerings of access programmes and other issues quite germane to a study of television generally as a source of information, though not to television news.

Occasionally he can be downright silly, analysing the closing résumé of the headlines as a "device" to inhibit the audience speculating upon the information they have just received. He may be right in diagnosing intellectual passivity in the audience, but the closing headlines have a far more straightforward, and sufficient, justification. I often miss the opening of a bulletin and am glad of the chance of hearing the early points repeated, without necessarily endorsing the newsmen's judgment of what are the "main points".

Such blemishes are unfortunate, for Collins does make some good points, observing the customary conclusion of a jokey, or upbeat, final item, sometimes sport (unless the sporting event is violent or controversial), assessing the revenue deriving from the commercial companies from ITN bulletins contrasted with their smaller contributions to ITN's budget, and summarizing audience research findings.

Even more unfortunate, the flaws undermine Collins's cogent central argument. News values remain ill-defined and insufficiently examined by their practitioners: BBC and ITN demonstrate little significant difference in their overall judgment of newsworthiness; television news and the press symbiotically feed on each other's stories; overall the audience's opportunity for choice or influence is very limited.

All these points deserve careful consideration. I recommend the monograph be read critically, but fear it will be read all too critically, that many readers will be alienated by the deafening sounds of political axe-grinding, even though the axe never really acquires a lethal cutting edge.

The truth may be more complex than this appears from television news, but the truth about television news is more complex than it appears here. And oddly enough the monograph parallels the often-alleged preference of television news for the bad news (and news is bad news), by concentrating on what is wrong. But much is good about television news, much could be significantly worse, to recognize this is not to deny that television news could be better and different, it might even paradoxically strengthen the arguments for change.

## Glimpses into the future

Adrian-Hope on audio-visual developments in Japan

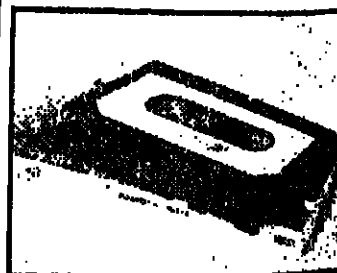
Japanese manufacturers offer glimpses into the future of educational technology. Among the latest innovations are a large cassette system rivaling standard compact reproduction, an instant monochrome slide producer, a video and sound cassette in compact size, and an integrated circuit 17mm square.

Techniques of Osaka are introducing a large cassette as an alternative to standard compact cassette systems. The Elcaset (L for large) uses tape at 3 1/2 in a second: twice the width and running speed of the compact cassette. It has no pressure pads for guiding the tape around the recording and playback heads, depending for this on the play machine's pads. It thus overcomes the three strongest criticisms levelled against the compact cassette: narrow tape, low speed of recording and reproduction, and a poorly made cassette which poses on even the most expensive machine.

The Elcaset shares these qualities and its general appearance with the Unisette, which was launched a year ago by BASF in Germany. Two major European manufacturers, Strider and EMT, are now making prototype Unisettes, while the Unisette has been designed for broadcasting and professional use, the Elcaset is aimed at the domestic and educational markets. Its track format includes mono-compatible stereo pairs exactly comparable to the Philips compact cassette track layout, plus a narrow cue track to accompany each stereo pair.

This cue track carries pulses similar to those used on conventional tape-slide presentations. The pulses can be used not only for

Continued on next page



The Elcaset, a new large cassette.

## At their own pace

Continued from previous page  
play of recorded programmes is often controlled by a technician either because of the complexity of a closed-circuit network or because teaching staff are unable to operate the equipment. This has only given the learner the choice between viewing or not viewing.

However, with the arrival of new forms of television such as Teletext and Viewdata, the user is at last to be given some control over what is displayed. Moreover, if this idea were extended there is no reason why he should not be offered more control over how programmes on videotape are accessed and viewed.

Among the silver knobs and glowing lights on some of the newer videocassette recorders, is a feature known as logic control. By incorporating this type of circuitry into the control panel, pressing is sorted out electronically to prevent damage to the machine. This is only a tiny step towards applying electronic control to the functioning of video replay equipment.

Under the label "micro processor" are the latest generation of electronics which could be used to give the learner direct control over quantity, order and rate of information displayed. The technology

necessary to eliminate television's restriction of fixed-pace programmes already exists but it has not yet been applied in a commercial product.

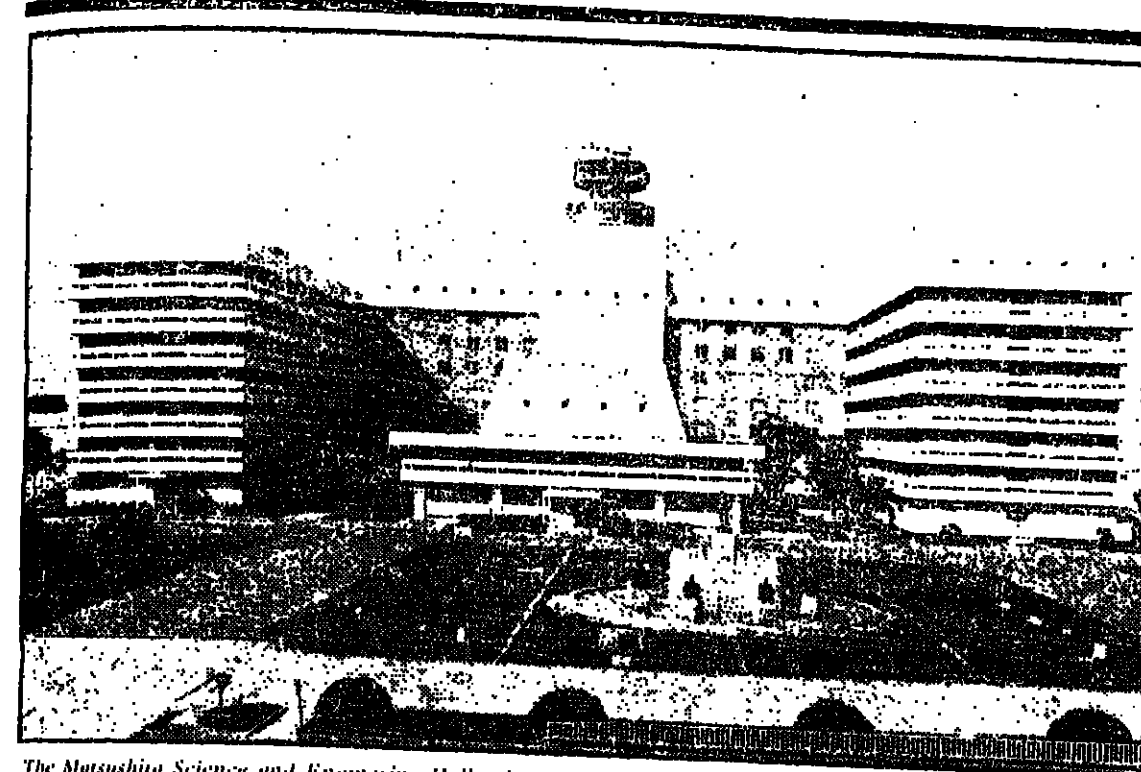
A prototype learner resource has been developed\* which demonstrates that electronic access to videotaped programmes provides a highly effective means of achieving independent learning. The amount of control is as yet limited to the automatic retrieval and display of programmes - videotape requires electronic indexing and television display have been operated successfully.

An alternative form of programme storage to that of videotape will, of course, be the micro disc. At least one of the many systems developed already can retrieve and display separate television frames.

The use of television as a means of mass communication and its application as a learning resource are two widely differing concepts. Until now television has been used mainly to communicate to large audiences. Providing the relative low cost of electronic equipment is maintained and the present developments in electronic control are exploited the future use of television in education will rest firmly in the hands of the learner.

\*The prototype is on show at Tower Navex on Stand 44 in the gallery.

Peter Copeland works at Bishop Otter College, Chichester.



The Mutsushita Science and Engineering Hall, which houses a permanent exhibition of new technology.

Continued from previous page

tape and film synchronization but also to control the fast forward, fast reverse and stop functions of an Elcaset player. This would enable a student repeatedly to locate a cited passage on a tape.

However, since track format is arbitrary, a machine providing similar functions with a BASF Unisette could be built, or indeed an Elcaset machine could be adapted for Unisette style broadcasting use. It, therefore, seems likely that another standards battle is about to begin alongside the one which is now raging between the European and Japanese videocassette systems.

image without the intermediary of a negative.

The mounted slide pops out of the camera unit and can be instantly projected. Using this, a teacher could produce a scribbled sheet, or a model answer either immediately before or even during a lesson.

The National "total education system", also an working display, can be regarded either as a practical answer to overseas classes, or another step towards 1984. With it, up to 56 students each have a desk containing a small-screen colour television monitor, an audio cassette recorder, headphones, a microphone and a response panel with five buttons. The teacher sits

at a central console linked to the students' desks, and from there can call into a camera and microphone the students collectively or individually.

Students can be questioned via headphones or their television screens using videotape, live camera or the projection facilities. Questions allow up to five possible answers, one of which is correct. The students answer by pressing whichever button they believe represents the correct answer.

Success or failure is instantly read out on a master video screen on the teacher's console, which carries a chessboard matrix representing the position in the classroom of each student. Thus as the third student in the back row presses a response button, the third position in the top row of the video screen matrix shows up green (or correct, or red for incorrect). Any student still uncorrected shows up on the matrix as a flashing question-mark.

When all students have given an answer a computer built into the teacher's console provides a read-out of percentage performance for the class on the given question. The computer can also provide a type-written print-out of the performance of the whole class and of individual pupils. This information can be stored on the computer disc memory for subsequent retrieval. Several Japanese schools are already equipped with these "total education systems".

The miniaturization of electronics continues to astonish. An integrated circuit or chip 17mm square has now been built to contain the equivalent of 3,700 separate transistors. Each transistor is the electrical equivalent of a valve, and a chassis with 3,700 valves would not only fill a classroom but raise its temperature to tropical levels. That number of valves would also require a massive power supply, whereas the 17mm chip can run for 20 hours on four small dry batteries.

Although such miniaturization has its gimmick uses (miniature radios, calculators, digital watches or all three combined), it also brings the size of highly complicated equipment down to suitcase dimensions.

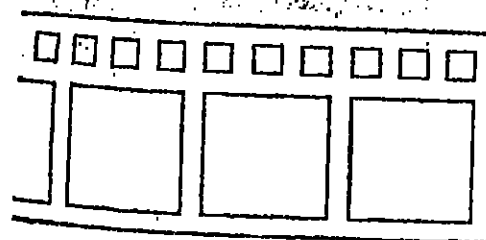
Largescale integration of this type makes possible the astonishing National colour picture cassette, looking rather like a large player for conventional Philips compact audio cassettes, this colour player reproduces both stereo sound and colour video pictures from a standard Philips compact cassette in completely conventional manner.

Each stereo pair of tracks on the tape cassette is accompanied by an extremely narrow extra track, squeezed into the middle region of the tape width. This carries a stream of digital signals, which are picked up by an extra playback head and fed into an electronic memory circuit.

It takes 3.5 seconds for the memory to receive sufficient signals from the extra track to build up a still colour picture on a video screen. Thus a completely ordinary C-60 Philips compact cassette can store 60 minutes of stereo sound plus 1,000 separate colour video pictures. When the cassette is played on the picture player, it produces sound and a succession of colour pictures which can be replaced every 3.5 seconds, although they are more usually held for a longer period of time.

If the same cassette is played on a conventional stereo or mono audio cassette machine, it simply produces mono or stereo sound. In other words, the system is mono/stereo/video/audio compatible. It is not yet on the market and could revolutionize slide-tape presentations when it is commercially launched.

An hour-long lesson, with screen sound accompanying up to 1,000 photographs, graphs or diagrams, can be sent through the post on a single videocassette of the type currently costing less than £1 in the shops.



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# Variations on an OU theme

Nicholas Pronay on an experiment at Leeds University using videotapes

A project to discover the extent to which the techniques of self-teaching already used in further education and by the Open University can be applied in universities begins at Leeds University this year. If successful the course being developed will be offered to other higher education institutions.

The project is financed by a Nuffield Foundation grant of £1,900, which will be used by Leeds University school of history to develop a new type of undergraduate course based upon the principle of self-teaching.

The course will introduce the student to the principal sources of historical evidence: archaeological and numismatic evidence for the earlier period, documentary sources for medieval times to the present day and photographic, film and sound records for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The course will be constructed around 14 videocassettes to be used by students at their own pace but according to a clear programme.

Each student will be issued with worksheets to enable him to check his own understanding and also to allow the supervisor to assess progress being made. The students will be directed to books and articles for further reading and will be given exercises involving the use of various kinds of sources for piecing together the development of an historic event.

At the end of the course, and possibly during it, students will be required to present some essays, but otherwise it will run as a self-access self-monitoring project with staff only "keeping an eye" on the exercise.

With the aid of the Nuffield Foundation grant, a teaching fellow will be appointed in the School of History for the second and third terms of the academic year 1976-77, when the course will be prepared and recorded. It is hoped that the videocassettes will be ready for use by students in the summer term of 1977 and in summer terms thereafter since it is at that time that members of the academic staff are most heavily burdened with examining.

It is also hoped that because the subject chosen is an integral part of every advanced course in history the cassettes will be used for many years. The cost of making copies would be small.

The common ideal of the teach-

ing system of all British universities is splendidly defined by Professor Arthur Marwick, writing from the vantage point of the Open University: "For a minority of able and dedicated students free range across the library shelves... reinforced by high level face-to-face tuition of the traditional sort, will remain the finest form of university education."

Universities especially in popular arts subjects such as history can, by and large, still base their approach to teaching on the assumption that their students are, in fact, both able and dedicated.

Most arts courses are the work of an individual, very often based upon his own research, and students pick up the techniques of the subject more or less incidentally from their teacher. Splendid as this system is, it has nevertheless become clear that there are now new constraints which make the full continuation of this ideal "apprentice" or "disciple" system increasingly difficult and indeed ultimately impossible.

First, such a system will not operate once the staff-student ratio has risen much above 1:10. Most history departments have already been forced by student demand and economic constraints to pass that ratio by a considerable margin.

Second, even in ideal circumstances, the explosion of research and publications makes such demands on students and lecturers alike that not enough time is left, after mastering the subject literature, to devote to the incidental acquisition of the techniques of the craft of the historian.

Third, the explosion of knowledge in practically every area of history has led to specialization and there is a real danger that students will be largely unaware of the sources and techniques applicable to periods outside the few areas which they can study during their three short years at university.

Solutions to these problems lie first in seeking ways whereby the available research resources and time, maybe used more effectively. This implies that a more structured and more organizational approach to the training of history students needs to be evolved. These changes do not obviously demand personal contact need to be isolated and taught through impersonal means, that is essentially

by a systematic use of educational technology.

We need to evolve special courses which will give the student the potential for a broad view in addition to the specialist training must continue to receive. A broad view, not of historical developments, or of "problems" or even Plato to Nietzsche, but of the clock back to the days when our approach to history was broad, because our knowledge of any particular techniques and sources of the many periods of historical work.

The student should be enabled to read, knowledgeably, up-to-date historical literature from the same archaeological Greek period to the tele-visual twentieth century. And of course, to turn with confidence when he enters school teaching to the preparation of courses outside the range of subjects covered in university.

With the appearance of his curriculum in schools closed towards the study of history method, skill and sources, such as the Schools Council's 13-plus or 16-plus schemes, the need for a kind of university training becoming daily more urgent. In use-structured, team-based or impersonally taught courses educational technology is, *per se*, the best way of providing this kind of general historical training across the many periods of historical spectrum. In a period of contracting resources it is probably the only way.

In developing the experimental course covering the main types of historical courses and related intellectual techniques from the ancient world to the twentieth century a team of eight senior and experienced members of the school of history are cooperating with members of both the television service and the Department of Education. Naturally, it is hoped that this concentration of expertise will lead to a successful and effective course.

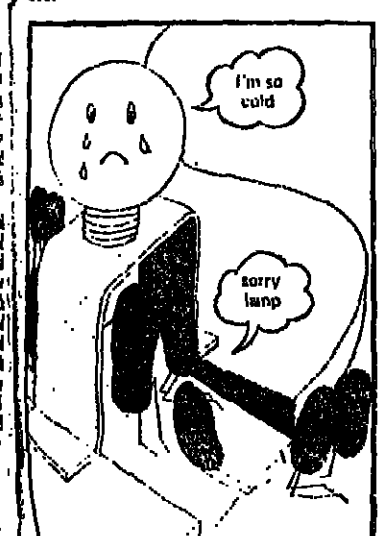
In any event, it will provide reliable evidence about the viability of modern educational technology and of a structured approach to university teaching within a framework of "ordinary" undergraduate studies, as opposed to home-made students.



## An aid for any occasion

Music Rodwell on non-projected media

Non-projected media can be divided into three categories: apparatus which are used by the teacher as an integral part of the lesson such as the writing board and teaching board on which symbols can be placed; pictorial aids which can be used sometimes with apparatus, other times alone, or as part of a static display; three-dimensional aids such as mobiles, models, games, etc.



Much has been written about the most basic of all classroom requirements: the writing board, which has come a long way from slate and chalk, to emerge as an elaborate and often expensive teacher's

aid. The impression is sometimes given that the future belongs to the white writing board and that the chalkboard is a thing of the past.

The whiteboard, however, would seem to be the answer for teachers who have despaired of dust-filled rooms, murky boards and screeching chalk. Such boards can be used with colourful felt-tipped pens; they can often double as projection surfaces; some surfaces can be dry wiped, thus eliminating the messy water and chemical cleaning; and, as psychologists have found, learning is most effective from dark print on a light board. Even their shortcomings—the cost of the pens and the smeared surfaces—are being overcome with the introduction of refillable pens and special wax crayons and porcelain enamelled steel boards.

It seems unlikely that the chalkboard will disappear completely from the classroom, for high quality porcelain enamelled steel chalkboards are now available, and some dust-free chalks are becoming more satisfactory. Wheelbarrow or pen boards are required, there is an increasingly wide choice of sizes and fittings, from the simple board and easel to the roller board, double-sided combination boards and complete teaching walls.

Flip-charts are another useful aid which can be used for information and illustration or for presenting pictorial aids progressively. One advantage is that the sheets can be detached after the lesson and displayed for further reference. Many writing boards are steel-backed and will accept magnets.

The magnetic board is one of three types of teaching displays, the others being the flannelgraph (or cloth board) and photograph systems. The principle underlying all these is similar. By adhesion—either magnetic, or through the clinging of rough surfaces (flannel-graph) or smooth surfaces (plastigraphs)—the teacher can manipulate individual visual elements on



Continued overleaf

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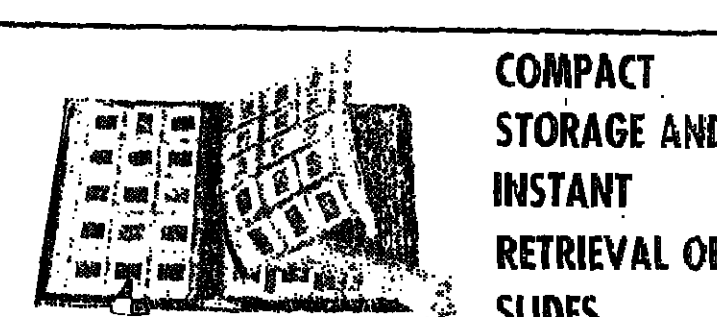
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Continued on next page







































# Mid Glamorgan COUNTY COUNCIL

## LECTURER/TEACHING STAFF

### CYNON VALLEY DISTRICT

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL

- BLAENGWYR, Aberdare.**  
1. Teacher qualified to teach BIOLOGY and HUMAN BIOLOGY to C.S.E. and 'O' levels. The person appointed will be expected to assist in the teaching of an Integrated Science Course in the junior school. Scale 1.  
2. Teacher qualified to teach ECONOMICS and COMMERCE to C.S.E. and 'O' levels. The person appointed will be expected to assist in the teaching of general subjects in the lower school during a further growth of the school. Scale 1.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL

- PENDERYN, Aberdare.**  
Teacher qualified or experienced in the teaching of infants and capable of teaching all subjects through the medium of Welsh. Scale 1. TEMPORARY post for one year.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, Old Boys' Grammar School, Aberdare.

### MERTHYR DISTRICT

#### TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- MERTHYR TYDFIL.**  
Lecturer, Grade 1, in PLASTERERS' WORK.  
Applicants must be qualified to at least Advanced Craft level, have had appropriate industrial experience, and must either be qualified teachers or have had considerable teaching experience.  
Salary: £2,489 x £126(8) x £144(8)-£4,377 plus the 1976 Salary Award of £312 per annum.

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

- AFON TAF, Tredegar, Merthyr Tydfil.**  
Graduate in or teacher qualified to teach MATHEMATICS to pupils throughout the age and ability range. Scale 2 post.

#### BISHOP HEDLEY R.C., Merthyr Tydfil

1. Graduate in GEOGRAPHY, to assist with the teaching of the subject throughout the school, including 'A' level work. Applicants who have specialised in Economics and Regional Geography preferred. Scale 1.  
2. Teacher qualified to teach RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and GENERAL SUBJECTS. Scale 1. TEMPORARY post for one year.

#### PEN-Y-DRE, Merthyr Tydfil

- (SOCIAL PRIORITY ALLOWANCE PAYABLE)  
1. Teacher qualified to assist in the work of the CRAFT DEPARTMENT, involving Design and Project work throughout the school. Scale 1.  
2. Teacher qualified to teach SECRETARIAL SKILLS and OFFICE PRACTICE. Scale 1.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, Pontmeris, Merthyr Tydfil.

### OGWR DISTRICT

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

- YNYSAWORE, Tondy, Bridgend.**  
1. Graduate in LATIN, to be responsible for teaching the subject throughout the school. Preference will be given to candidates able to assist with the teaching of Welsh to junior forms. Scale 1.  
2. Teacher qualified to teach NEEDLEWORK throughout the school. Assistance with Games may be required from a suitable candidate. Scale 1.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- BRYNCEITH INFANTS, Bridgend.**  
Qualified teacher, infant trained, able to play the piano and teach Welsh. Scale 1.

- LITCHARD INFANTS, Bridgend.**  
Qualified teacher, infant trained, able to teach in an open-plan vertically grouped school. Ability to play piano for all activities essential. Scale 1.

- LITCHARD JUNIOR, Bridgend.**  
Qualified teacher, infant trained, able to teach Welsh and Religious Instruction. Scale 1.

- WEST PARK (OPEN-PLAN) PRIMARY, Nottage, Portcawl.**  
1. Qualified teacher, infant trained, with ability to play the piano and having a general interest in Music. Scale 1.  
2. Qualified teacher, junior trained, able to play the piano and to assist with Recorder and Guitar. The successful applicant will be expected to co-ordinate Music teaching throughout the school. Scale 1.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, Sunnyvale, Bridgend.

### RHONDDA DISTRICT

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

- FERNDALE (SOCIAL PRIORITY ALLOWANCE PAYABLE)**  
1. Graduate (preferably Honours) in MATHEMATICS, to teach the subject to 'O' and possibly 'A' level. Scale 3 post available.  
2. Teacher qualified to teach WOODWORK and METALWORK in the Upper and Middle Schools. Scale 1.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, Crawshaw Street, Ton Pentre, Rhondda.

### RYHMNEY VALLEY DISTRICT

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

- LEWIS BOYS', Pango.**  
Teacher qualified to teach GENERAL SUBJECTS to less able pupils in Forms 1 and 2. Scale 1.  
**LEWIS GIRLS', Ystrad Mynach.**  
Graduate in or teacher qualified to teach ENGLISH to at least 'O' level. Scale 1.

- ST. CENYDD, Caerphilly.**  
Qualified Teacher of the Deaf (PART-TIME, 12-15 hours a week) for a well established partially hearing unit at this school. Consideration will also be given to experienced, qualified teachers who are prepared to obtain the qualification for teachers of the deaf. An in-service training scheme is available.  
Salary: Pro rata Scale 1, plus Special Class allowance (but not the Social Priority Allowance). Where appropriate a merit award will also be payable.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL

- HENDRE JUNIOR, Caerphilly.**  
Qualified Teacher of the Deaf (PART-TIME, 20 hours a week) for a well established partially hearing unit at this school. Consideration will also be given to experienced, qualified teachers who are prepared to obtain the qualification for teachers of the deaf. An in-service training scheme is available.  
Salary: Pro rata Scale 1, plus Special Class allowance. Where appropriate, a merit award will also be payable.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, Council Offices, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed.

### TAFF ELY DISTRICT

#### COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

- BRYN CELYNNOG, Soddau, Mr. Pontypridd.**  
1. Teacher qualified to teach HISTORY. The successful applicant will be required to assist with the teaching of English and Social Studies. Scale 1.  
2. Teachers qualified to teach MATHEMATICS, with ability to assist with the teaching of Science (2 posts). Scale 1.

3. Teacher qualified to teach WELSH, with ability to assist with the teaching of English. Scale 1.  
4. Teacher qualified to teach FRENCH, with ability to assist with the teaching of English. Scale 1.  
5. Teacher qualified to teach MUSIC, with ability to assist with the teaching of Drama and Art. Scale 1.  
6. Teacher qualified to teach PHYSICAL EDUCATION, with ability to assist in the teaching of Mathematics and Technical Drawing. The successful applicant should have a special interest in swimming, athletics and rugby. Scale 1.

7. Teacher qualified to teach RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, with ability to assist in the teaching of English and Social Studies (Religious Education, History and Geography). The successful applicant must have an interest in the non-academic life-year courses. Scale 1.  
8. Honours Graduate in ENGLISH to become Head of the English Department and to assist in the general running of the school. Scale 4 post.  
9. Qualified teacher who has successfully pursued a one year course in the teaching of handicapped children, or an experienced qualified teacher with an interest in handicapped children. Scale 1.  
10. Honours graduate in ECONOMICS to teach the subject to 'O' and 'A' levels and to assist in the teaching of Commerce. Scale 1.

- HAWTHORN, Pontypridd.**  
Graduate in or teacher qualified to teach BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES up to C.S.E. and 'O' levels. The successful applicant will be expected to teach some General Science. Willingness to teach other subjects in the curriculum would be an advantage. Scale 1.  
Application forms, to be returned by 18th June, 1976, obtainable on receipt of a stamped, addressed, foolscap envelope, from the District Education Officer, District Education Office, The Grange, Tylfa Road, Pontypridd.

J. L. BRACE,  
Director of Education.

### SECONDARY Technical Studies continued

#### MERTHYR DISTRICT

#### NORTH HILLS DIVISION

- HYDUN BOYS' SCHOOL.**  
Grammar School, Walsall Road, Merthyr Tydfil. (170 boys, 120 to 14th term).  
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Grammar School, Walsall Road, Merthyr Tydfil. (170 boys, 120 to 14th term).  
TEACHER (Scale 1) required to teach Technical Studies (C.S.E. and 'O' levels) and to assist in the teaching of English and Social Studies. The successful applicant will be expected to assist in the teaching of general subjects in the lower school during a further growth of the school. Scale 1.

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### SECONDARY Technical Studies continued

#### MERTHYR DISTRICT

#### NORTH HILLS DIVISION

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